

Hanabokuro

花黒子

魔除人 3

～東方見聞篇～



Exterminator

— Kujonin —

- Volume 3 -

The Exterminator that Goes Out to Sea

**-Author-
Hanabokuro**

**-Artist-
KT2**

[Hon'yaku]

Chapter 28

“Leave Teyl to me!”

The shipyard’s boss, Bollock, said to me, who had boarded a boat. I had immediately magically remodeled the small, old boat that had been in the shipyard and was given to me.

The Lord had made me, Velsa, and Ayl wanted, so we were in a considerable hurry. Teyl already has no relation to me, so it seems she’s not wanted, but I’m a little worried about it. Even so, she has a new husband to protect her, so I’m relieved.

“Sorry I can’t attend the wedding, Teyl.”

“Ee, it’s alright. More importantly, take care.”

Teyl said as she grasped the Communication Bag that I made. If the preparations are made, then we’ll set off immediately. Although I said it was ‘preparations’, it’s just loading the luggage onto the boat. The boat given to us is about as large as a yacht, so rather than it being old and dirty, there wasn’t anything in particular that I could see wrong with it.

“In the end it seems I didn’t part with Ayl.”

“Were you intending to separate from me? Even if I had won the competition and boarded the ship, I have the intentions to stick with Naoki. Maa, take care of me from now on too.”

Ayl said, striking me on the shoulder.

As we were about to take off, the shipyard’s works and the townspeople, as well and

Teyl and Bollock of course, waved their hands.

“Have an ‘ichigo-ichie’ journey! Treasure your encounters!”

Teyl smiled, waving her hand.

We begin our journey with the boat heading straight east. The wind was favorable. Seagull-like monsters were flying with us since we set out.

When we had continued for a while, a hole opened in the bottom of the ship and water came coming in. We tore of a plank and stopped it up. The Lord’s ship might come chasing us, so I drew a magic circle that produces water currents in the stern of the ship, raising the speed.

While repairing the boat, the boat continued onward, the three of us did other little things, like securing a place to sleep. I cleaned the kitchen and installed the heating magic circle. The bottom of the toilet floor had fallen through, so I made a door for the floor. You’re completely visible from the outside, but it can’t be helped for now. Honestly, I feel like no matter how many hands we have, it wouldn’t be enough. Lunch are the sandwiches we had brought with us that Teyl made.

Crash-!

All of a sudden the boat hit something and we were grounded.

“Oi, oi, we crashed right away!?”

Ayl yelled.

I quickly reinforced the boat with a reinforcement magic circle.

Thankfully, what we had run aground of was a sea monster, a kraken, so with a light magic circle and Ayl’s sword attacks, we killed it. We harvested the squid ink and tentacles and such, but the meat wasn’t that tasty.

There was practically no damage to the boat.

The next thing that attacked us was the wind.

We had spread the sails, but in an instant they tore and the rudder became useless.

It would take some time and trouble to fix, so with it like that I pour magic power into the magic circle, and we continue with just the current. Around when the wind calmed, there wasn't a shadow of land anywhere in our surroundings. It was the horizon in all 360 degrees. I looked at the map, but I have no idea where we are.

Relying on the compass, we head east.

If we keep going for a bit, we should see an island.

However, even before we reached that island, we were assaulted by a large amount of jellyfish monsters called echizzen. I removed the cracked frame of a round window within the ship and drew a wind magic magic circle on the window frame.

Attaching a rope, I threw it into the sea and the window frame floated on the sea surface. Having it rotate slowly enough to not move the ship, it amusingly sucked in the echizzen within the water and then launched them, swirling, into the sky. When they were launched upwards, *Ayl, slash slash*, cut them down.

Their tenacity towards life seems to be weak, so the echizzen disappeared among the sea's seaweed. After a while, while we were hunting echizzen, we saw a land shadow on the horizon to the east. As we got closer to the island, as expected the amount of echizzen increased.

It plugged up the window frame, so I retrieved the window frame.

I drew and added to the magic circle and, once again, threw it out to sea.

From the window frame a tornado-like wind rose up and the echizzen were flung across the sky.

I had made a path all the way to the island, so we quickly moved the boat forward.

We scurried until we reached the island.

The island was, as per expectations, a dense jungle; strange monster calls and the footsteps of confident monsters can be heard.

Chapter 29

“What do you think?”

“It doesn’t matter what I think, it’s weird as fuck!!”¹

Ayl yelled and sent the head of an extra-large wild bear flying.

Extra-large. In other words, 4 times larger than a normal wild bear.

The normally 2, 3 meter wild bear is about 12 meters.

It’s a height you have to look up at.

It’s not just the wild bear.

The lizard monster, kodomo dragon, is also far bigger.

It’s not a kodomo, it’s size is completely like a dragon.

For a field boar, I had thought that a mountain was moving.

What we had arrived at was a deserted island without a name.

Pretty much all of the monsters are extra-large; it’s a place where the field boar preys on the green tiger monsters.

“The balance between predator and prey is completely different from other places, na.”

The monster scholar, Velsa, said.

“Even so, they’re way too big.”

“Umu, it requires an investigation. The accumulation of mana sources, or most likely the abundance of prey, I presume. Look, that huge back has moss growing on it.”

Velsa said as she pointed at a haze turtle, a swamp-dwelling tortoise monster.

It's already a big monster normally, but the one we're looking at now is about 20 meters.

Certainly the haze turtle's shell has moss accumulating on it, with small flowers blooming.

So that means that this particular one has lived on this island for numerous years.

“In other words, in order to maintain that giant body there should be some sort of food or mana source on this island.”

“Is it something they eat among the plants in this jungle?”

The island is covered with this dense jungle; if we're looking for something like that, it feels like we won't find it no matter how long we look.

“Even though it's a jungle, the vegetation they're capable of eating is actually rather limited. When you think of the amount necessary to eat to get enough calories to support that huge size, as well as the sheer number of extra-large monsters... no matter how I think about it, it's strange that there's not some hill eaten bare on this island.”

There were more large monsters than you could handle with both hands just by going 20 meters into the jungle.

In truth, although I don't know how big this island is yet, certainly, if there's no suitable feeding ground then there's no way they'd get this big.

With so many extra-large monsters assembled, there is most likely something they eat that causes them to become extra-large.

Regarding the vegetation, there seems to be a lot of old trees, but they're normal sized.

"It might not be a normal mana accumulation."

Velsa tapped her chin in a troubled manner, thinking.

Even a mana source can become food for monsters.

That said, even if there's a normal mana source formation, it's rare even in the history books for large monsters to appear because of it.

While she dismantles the wild bear corpse, Ayl is cautious of our surroundings.

I draw magic circles and freeze the large monsters that come attacking me.

As I'm doing so, from within the island a thundering sound resounded.

"The hell is that!!?"

Ayl absentmindedly muttered.

A herd of monsters that completely fills up my Search Skill is coming this way.

Chapter 30

From the forest, a large stampede of masmaskarl that covered the ground surged this way.

We instantly fled to the boat.

The moment we were about to depart, *thudthudthudthud*, the echizzen that were tossed upwards came raining down.

The echizzen also rained down onto the island, and the large monsters opened their mouths and ate them.

Some of the large monsters stomp on the ground, and when the masmaskarl's movements are stopped, there are some who feed on them like they were scooping them up.

Truly the law of the jungle.¹

Masmaskarl have no way to rise in power.

Even if they were going to run away, why did they come towards the sea?

I now understand how the large monsters sustain their large bodies.

But if this keeps up, then we'll be swallowed by the masmaskarl stampede.

Ayl can deal with personal combat and large monsters, but she probably can't deal with a stampede.

Looks like Velsa's gotten too close to the stampede for research purposes.

There's no one else other than me to deal with it.

I force Ayl and Velsa into the boat and stick a defensive barrier to it, then rang the Confusion Bell.

The surging masmaskarl began to cannibalize each other in confusion, and ones that suddenly had their levels surge upwards began to appear.

The large monsters that had their feet bitten began to spout blood, and the frenzied masmaskarl stampede continued to bite, aiming for blood.

The large monsters are conversely becoming the prey.

It's a complete reversal of the law of the jungle.

The weak are devouring the strong.

Small wounds can take a life.

Death screams resounded throughout the island; in a few seconds, the large haze turtle transformed into a skeleton and shell.

If it wasn't for the defensive barrier, me too; "Aa, I'd become like that, huh?" I thought, and a chill ran up my back.

At any rate, in order to exterminate the masmaskarl, it's necessary to reduce the number of individuals.

I retrieve the poison rat dumplings from the Item Bag and threw them into the forest.

The masmaskarl who ate the poison rat dumplings died, and the masmaskarl who ate those corpses died.

However, that combo ended after only a few times.

By eating the corpses, the body developed a tolerance against the weakened poison, and they evolved into poison masmaskarl that carried poison within their bodies.

They're monsters.

They are capable of evolving within a matter of minutes.

I destroyed this island's ecosystem really quickly.

Even so, I install traps.

I'll use whatever I have.

When I ran out of the sticky board traps, I drew a magic circle directly on the ground

and stopped the stampede.

I threw sleeping and paralysis Vao^osen (smoke-type rodenticide) randomly at them.

Smoke rose from all over the area.

The smoke doesn't enter the defensive barrier, but my field of vision has been stolen.

When I looked with the Search Skill, I can tell that the masmaskarl stampede is gradually taking on bad statuses.

Deploying a wind magic circle, I dispersed the smoke into the depths of the island.

It took about 30 minutes.

All the monsters within the range of my Search Skill have taken on bad statuses.

Around when there was no more smoke, I undid my defensive barrier.

The echizzen have already descended into the sea.

Calling the two people within the boat, I go to clean up.

Other than the ones we left alive for Velsa to research, we'll incinerate them all.

Gathering them together, we burned them all at once.

When I thought there was nothing left but cinders, there was just small magic stones left of them.

The magic stones of evolved monsters are a different color; I retrieved them all, since I might be able to use them for something.

Walking around the island center, I went around burning the corpses of all the masmaskarl and echizzen that I could see.

Ayl beheaded all of the giant monsters that couldn't move and dismantled them.

The ones who had eaten masmaskarl or poison masmaskarl even a little bit were immediately burned, since poison might be circulating within their meat.

When all the monsters within 100 meters of the ship had disappeared, the sun set.

“I’m wiped out.”

Ayl said while carving the meat off the large monsters.

All 3 of us share the sentiment.

We’re on the beach near the ship, grilling meat and having dinner.

After dinner, I entered the jungle alone, wondering if there are any poison or sleeping medicine ingredients; I go to look for them.

If I leave things like this, we won’t be able to deal with it if it happens again.

Ayl said, “It’s better to get off this island fast,” but Velsa said, “No, I haven’t heard of this island before, so I’d like to research as much as I can.”

Either way, the boat was damaged a little by the falling echizzen, so it will take some time to fix.

Thankfully there’s an abundance of trees, so it’s become a situation where I’m searching for suitable lumber.

Because of that, since we have to survive on this island, poison, sleep inducing medicine, and paralysis inducing medicine will be necessary, so I entered the jungle.

Chapter 31

Masmascarl are omnivorous, but they don't seem to eat anything other than fruit and monster meat, so there was little damage to the trees of the jungle.

It's just that the trees that were eaten at were eaten thoroughly, cruelly inflicting scars and holes in the bark.

I activate Search Skill to its fullest, being wary of monsters.

If the gigantic monsters decided to attack me together, I'd be done for.

For today, I don't have any desire to defeat monsters any more.

Soon after entering the jungle, I found a mushroom that's an ingredient in paralysis medicine, flowers that are ingredients in sleep medicine, and the like.

Since they grow in clusters, collecting them together is easy once you spot one.

I was engrossed in shoving things into the Item Bag, so I went all the way into the depths of the jungle.

.The moon has already risen quite high.

"I wouldn't have come here if it weren't for the Search Skill"

I muttered.

There is also a monster that came close to me from somewhere to see what was going on.

It's not really a problem since it didn't attack, but I don't know whether it's because its fur is black or if it's a monster that resides in the shadows in the first place, but I wasn't able to confirm it by sight.

And, I was here before I knew it.

There aren't any masmaskarl corpses or gigantic monster corpses.

I have already gone past the range where we eradicated the masmaskarl and gigantic monsters.

There are no signs of masmaskarl flesh or blood, and of course no gigantic monster corpses either.

There's absolutely no signs of bones, even.

I wonder if it's because I just can't see them since it's dark.

I remember that only the bones were left when the masmaskarl ate the haze turtle.

But even then the bones were left behind.

"Is there a monster here that eats bones?"

While I was mulling that over, Search Skill picked up a large swarm of small monsters passing about 30 meters in front of me.

Erasing my presence, I circle around to the back.

When I had gotten close enough to see, I could determine that a large field boar corpse was being carried.

It was too big so I can't tell what is carrying it right away, but I can see some white monster squirming.

The light from the moon illuminated the swarm of masmaskarl frantically carrying gigantic monsters.

The field boar corpse has a wound from large claws, so I think it was an instance of gigantic monsters fighting with each other.

By the way, the stomach of the corpse was hollowed out, so I felt like I could see the end of the defeated.

Is the masmaskarl swarm in charge of disposal? If so, then exactly what was with them going crazy and flooding towards the ocean?

They're the gigantic monsters' feed, and also take care of disposal.

They don't act individually, but in a swarm.

I'm startled that they have completely different behaviors from the masmascarl I see in the cities.

That they're carrying the bodies probably means that they have a nest.

As I followed them, all of a sudden the field boar corpse sunk into the ground like it was swallowed up by a bog.

It was hidden by the dried leaves and branches on the ground, but there's a large cave entrance there.

As expected, it would be stupid if I followed them all the way into the cave like this and died, so I returned to the ship.

"As strange as I think it may be, that might just be a dungeon."

Velsa said when I had returned and told my story.

Ayl had used the ship's mast and made a hammock; her sleep-breathing can be heard.

"A Dungeon? What's the difference between that and caves?"

"There are theories that old caves can become dungeons, and theories that after a surpassing a number of years, ancient ruins can become dungeons, or that dungeons are giant traps by monsters, and all sorts of different theories, but at any rate, the thing that dungeons have that caves don't is the presence of a dungeon core."

"Dungeon core...?"

"So far, within this world, there have only been 3 dungeon cores found."

"What difference does it make if that's present?"

"Monsters are automatically produced."

"Automatically-!"

“Of course they’re produced from the cave without molding proteins or fats or bones, so there’s no substance. When they’re defeated they disappear into smoke. But you do get experience points, and the magic stone and subjugation proof is left behind. How did you think the Guild determined subjugation proof parts in the first place?”

“Could it be that it’s whatever monsters defeated in dungeons drop?”

“Exactly so.”

“Even so!”

The masmaskarl I saw today had substance.

“The monsters produced in a dungeon can’t go outside of it. The masmaskarl we saw today definitely had substance, so they definitely weren’t produced by the dungeon... is what I would normally think, but you know, about my teacher Lisa, the monster researcher, advocated a theory that if a dungeon absorbs monsters and humans from the outside, in otherwords the things necessary for life like proteins and bones and the like, then the dungeon can produce monsters with substance.”

“If the monsters without substance born in a dungeon ingest things with substance, then they will take on that substance?”

“That’s right. It’s said that the blueprint is already assembled within, so the when the components of a body are thrown in, the blueprint is applied and it undergoes substance-ification.”

“And so, why is Velsa so adamant it’s a dungeon?”

Velsa gave a nod and turned to me.

“Dungeon monsters move in groups.”

“N?”

Nono, don’t monsters flock together?

In the towns, it should be that the masmaskarl, vespahornets, and bagroaches I exterminated made nests and flocked together, but...

“Monsters originally move according to the individual. They move on the individual’s will. It’s just that certain ones, like weak monsters, will hunt together, or have social tendencies.”

Like the vespahornets having a queen bee, I guess.

“Even so, if their comrades are done in, normally monsters flee. They scatter. Because the individuals have their own will, after all. But the masmascarl swarm we saw today didn’t flee and moved as if the whole swarm had a single will.”

“Is that strange?”

“Yes. If it’s monsters originated from a dungeon, it might be that there’s something like the dungeon’s will in existence.”

Velsa smiled with a smirk, saying, “We can’t leave this island anyway,” covered herself with a blanket, and with a “Let’s get up early tomorrow,” she went to sleep.

“Dungeon’s will... what’s with that?”

My mutter was erased by the rustling of the trees in the wind that came from the dark jungle.

Chapter 32

“I see. Monsters aren’t altruistic by nature after all.”

Ayl, who received Velsa’s explanation first thing in the morning, came to an understanding.

“E? Ayl, you understand what’s going on?”

“Naoki, you don’t? Aa, that’s right. Even if he doesn’t go to the church, Naoki can heal his own wounds.”

According to Ayl, when you run out of potions and go to the church to get your battlewounds healed by a priest, you’ll also get a tedious sermon.

Within that they say things like adventurers shouldn’t act only for self interest, but with a spirit of altruism, adventurers should help their fellow adventurers.

No matter which church you go to, adventurers have no choice but to hear that selfish adventurers will be quickly done in by monsters.

“Enough of that. Anyway, let’s go look for this island’s dungeon.”

Velsa said, spreading honey on bread.

We take turns preparing meals.

It looks like I’m the only one able to brew herb tea.

I explained that you just need to add hot water, but Ayl puts in a huge amount of tea leaves, and Velsa, maybe because of her poor lifestyle, timidly adds it so it takes too long.

Finishing breakfast, we look for the dungeon.

Ayl, who inadvertently looked at the back of her Adventurer Card, was delighted that her level had risen from defeating the gigantic monsters and agreed to stay on the island for a while.

For the wood for the ship, I felled trees in the area nearby and dried them by drawing a wind magic circle.

Through normal methods you'd need one to two months to dry them, but with this method it won't even take a week.

I could have done it in an instant, but Velsa said that the wood would split with a serious face.

"Even if it was one or two months, I believe it would be fine to explore this island in the meantime."

Velsa seems to have been completely taken in by the charm of this island.

I drew magic circles like shock resistance and magic resistance on everyone's clothes, and then we set off for the depths of the forest.

Going along with Velsa, who immediately found rare vegetation and bugs, we put the things that can go into the Item Bag in the Item Bag.

We said Ayl was in charge monsters and magic beasts, and the ones my Search Skill picked up were annihilated.

Most of the island's monsters are larger than the normal size, so the experience points reaped seems to be pretty good too.

Because Ayl's Taijutsu and Sword Arts Skills increased, she moves super-humanly.

"Being able to kick mid-air is useful,"

She said, telling me and Velsa to also take the Taijutsu Skill.

"We want to stay human still."

When I said so, she grinned and laughed, "Got it, got it."

Leaving the battle junkie alone, I head to the cave where the masmascarl carried the field boar corpse last night.

"So this is the dungeon."

Velsa said, watching the hole in the ground.

I turned on the light attached to the headlamp I had, but the battery had finally run out and it flickered out.

If I think about it, the things I brought from the previous world were the coverall and this light.

I had intended to only use it during important times, but the battery finally ran out, huh?

I indulged in those kinds of deep feelings, but if I draw a lightning magic circle then I can revive it, and if I use a light magic circle then I can make the light stronger.

In the first place, I have the Search Skill, so I don't have the need to use it for myself.

For the other two I drew a light magic circle on the other side of the light, and I have the magic tool skill, so even installing it only took a moment.

With a thick beam of light shining from the head lamp, I jumped down the dungeon's hole.

In the middle of the fall, the bat-like monsters, shobusurl, attacked, but they weren't a match for Ayl, who can move in midair.

When the shobusuri were defeated, their bodies shone for a second, then, like a glass ball they shattered and dispersed, with the magic stone and batwings falling.

Seeing that, Velsa said,

"Looks like it's undoubtedly a dungeon"

and she retrieved the magic stones and subjugation proof.

"The subjugation proof parts obtained in a dungeon are called drop items," she said.

Putting the drop items in the Item Bag, we explored the dungeon.

Investigating the level below us and our surroundings with the Search Skill, the amount of monsters isn't normal.

We can't fight them one by one so I was going to use the Confusion Bell, but Velsa and Ayl stopped me.

It's fine if it's masmaskarl, they said, but if a strong monster evolves then it'd be nasty, so it may be troublesome but it's better to defeat them normally.

That's true; I don't know what kind of monsters will come out.

I listened to the two of their words and put the Confusion Bell away; it's been a while, so I'll try out new weapons.

"Did you say a new weapon?"

Ayl looked at me suspiciously.

What I took out from the Item Bag was the pump that I used to spray the liquid I used when I was exterminating the masmaskarl and bagroaches.

Today's container is larger and can be carried on your back.

By the way, I made the nozzle easier to hold, and I also made it possible to control the radius of the spray.

It's all thanks to the good graces of the Craftsmanship and Magic Tool Production Skills.

Using the poison masmaskarl that had conveniently drawn close as test subjects, I sprayed the liquid.

At first the poison masmaskarl didn't know what was going on, but soon they screeched and fainted.

"Even if it's this island's large-sized masmaskarl, they end up like this."

With a narration like it's from an infomercial, when I appealed to the other two and tries to show the pump's excellence,

"What did you do!?"

"What the-!? Even though poison shouldn't be effective on poison masmaskarl!"

I was cross-examined with amazing intensity.

The liquid is a concentration of a relative of the chili pepper that I found in the jungle soaked in water.

It was a plant that was recorded in Camilla's herbology book, so I tried making it last night.

They have resistance to poison, but spicy things hurt.

Ending the fainted poison masmaskarl with a knife, I retrieved the drop items and magic stones.

The experiment was a success.

"Alright! Next."

" "You have more!?" "

When I change out the pump's contents, the two exclaimed(tsukkomi).

"Of course there's more. This is the highly anticipated dungeon. It seems perfect for experimenting."

Leaving the other two dumbfounded people, I searched for my next prey.

Chapter 33

Looks like muscle relaxant poisons don't have much effect on dungeon monsters.

Hemorrhaging poison is also ineffective.

A hemorrhaging magic poison, as a poison that discharges magic is called, that forcefully causes magic power to run out, is extremely effective.

I can't have Ayl and Velsa breathing in the poison while I spray it, so I handed over masks with complete protection.

It's essentially a barrier made with a magic circle that looks in the air, so none of the spray will leak through, I think.

From start to finish, I tried out the poisons listed in Camilla's herbology book.

As expected, from seeing it with my own eyes and having the firsthand account, I think these are the results because this is a dungeon.

It's something to try in reality.

Finally, I dug a little of the dungeon's ground out, made a man-made pond, and put just a little poison in it.

At a removed place, as I peeped at what was going on, a gray wildbear subspecies came to drink the water, and with one mouthful it collapsed.

At the current stages, it's my most powerful poison.

It's a poison powder made by boiling the stem of a blue-purple flower and evaporating the liquid, so it's very easy to use.

"I guess it's impossible to find any more poison from here on without a microscope."

I said, nodding and agreeing to myself.

"It's like he's crazy."

“Yeah, he’s a terrifying man, that Naoki.”

Ayl and Velsa undid their masks and came closer.

“Well, I tried using all the ones I made before in order, but I found out a lot of things.”

“Found out a lot of things?”

Velsa asked, tilting her head.

Ayl began dismantling the wildbear subspecies.

The corpse didn’t disappear, and the drop items also didn’t appear.

I don’t know what this grey wildbear ate, but it has substance.

“Monsters originating from the dungeon have more magic power than the monsters outside. And also/, it seems that quite a lot of magic power is needed to maintain the body’s form. However, when they gain substance, like this wildbear, it’s a different story, and the effectiveness of poison is extremely good!”

“This is a grezzly, ne.”

Velsa gave a nod to my speech and also corrected it.

“Heh?”

“This monster isn’t a wildbear, it’s a grezzly. It’s a monster that lives in a far off northern country. I don’t know why it’s here, though.”

Seems like this grey wildbear is a different specis called a grezzly.

For us to encounter a monster that lives in the northern country in this jungle.

I guess it’s because this is a dungeon.

“Ue~ the bugs are horrible!”

Ayl, who's dismantling, swats at the bugs that *pyon pyon* leap from the grezzly's fur, crushing them.

I said, "Wait a second," to Ayl and captured as many of the jumping bugs as I can.

They're the size of a grain of rice, but they're dungeon-originated tick monsters.

When I asked Velsa, it turns out "These monsters aren't named."

When I conveyed that I want to raise them to make an insecticide,

"Haa? Naoki, you're weird! Like my teacher."

Even while Velsa's shocked, she was reminded of how her teacher, the monster researcher Lisa, raised small monsters.

She said that Lisa carefully studied bugs and small monsters.

Since ticks are living creatures they can't go in the Item Bag, so I wash the container I used for the pump and put as many in it as I could.

The other two are completely staring at me like I'm a crazy person, but if I can discover an insecticide that can exterminate ticks, it should sell well.

It can also become prevention measures against infectious diseases.

And furthermore, they're large-sized so I can personally see their forms and conditions. It's an unexpected windfall.

Although it didn't seem so to the other two.

I sealed the container the ticks went in, bent over, and used Clean Up on the grezzly.

Ayl dismantled it, the magic stone, meat, and fur went in the Item Box, the leftover bones were incinerated, and the blood was thrown into the poisonous pond.

Shobusuri were hanging from the ceiling, peering over.

Are they aiming for the blood in the pond?

Now all that's left is taking in the experience points.

Proceeding further within, there are stairs.

I use the Search skill, and it should have been obvious, but even the Search Skill couldn't reveal the level below.

When we descended the stairs, there was the feeling of breaking through some kind of thin membrane.

Shining the light at the stone walls, there was a pattern-like magic circle around the walls, ceiling, and floor.

When I carefully examined it, it wasn't a poison or transfer magic circle; I understood it to be a sub-space magic circle like the Item Bag.

"A sub-space, huh?"

" "Sub-space?" "

"It probably has oxygen and gravity?"

" "???" "

Ignoring the other two's confusion, I proceed onwards.

When I went past the magic circle, I was able to see the state of the monsters on the lower level with the Search Skill.

If it's possible for monsters to be here, then I guess it's okay for humans too.

Below the stairs seems to be quite the bright area.

The light hits the stairs.

In front of the stairs, red as well as yellow trees spread before it like a carpet.

I can't tell if it's a perfectly clear sky drawn on the ceiling or if it's a real sky, but at any rate, a sky-blue radiates.

It's weird, feeling like there's just stairs continuing from above. That kind of space was

spread out.

Velsa and Ayl descend the stairs in a daze.

Stepping onto the floor, there's the rustling noise of the scattered dry leaves.

Chapter 34

There are traces like that of giant monsters being dragged by on top of the leaves.

I assume if we follow them we'll discover the masmaskarl's nest.

The Search Skill indicates that there are numerous monsters in the surroundings.

I can't see them, but it seems like they aren't the giant monsters.

"Keep quiet."

Ayl said as she gripped the sword at her waist.

I don't know what Velsa is thinking about, but she's staring at the leaves on the ground.

I handed out the instant-death evasion misangas.

"These leaves are real"

When I handed Velsa her misanga, she whispered such in my ear.

Well, yeah, they're fallen leaves after all; obviously they're real.

While I was thinking that, I realized what Velsa was trying to say.

I thought that the masmaskarl swarm carried the giant monsters into the dungeon in order to make the dungeon-born monsters into monsters with substance.

But it's a different story if there are plants that exist with substance.

"Is it fine to say they're raising beans?"

If you want protein, it's good to raise legumes.

Now that I think about, when I was still in my former world, I get the feeling I ate a lot of beans.

The nattou, tofu, soy sauce, miso, and soy milk that Japanese people are familiar with are all beans.

If you want calcium, plants like Japanese mustard spinach and the leaves of radishes would be fine.

“Even so, why do they come out and hunt for giant monsters if there’s no need?”

“Because they don’t have an knowledge on how to raise plants?”

While Velsa and I discussed the problem, Ayl moved forward with caution.

“If we go in, we’ll find out.”

It’s as Ayl says.

Don’t get distracted from going further; if we go further, we’ll find out.

“Nevertheless...”

“They’re watching us, na.”

“Un.”

The surrounding monsters are peering over here, following us.

Somehow, even if you say there’s no problem because we already found out, they’re coming and following us without making a sound.

It’s just I can’t see their forms at all.

Is it a type of monster that hides in the shadows?

Suddenly, Ayl, who was walking in the front, stopped.

In the path where the giant monsters were dragged along, there is the figure of an elven young man with a bow notched on his shoulder.

“Someone living in the dungeon?”

Next to me, Velsa was startled.

I furrow my brows together, watching the situation.

“What business do you have in our forest!?”

“Ah, no, we just wanted to go a little further forward, though.”

Ayl responded to the elf youth.

Ayl has already prepared for battle.

Before the elf youth had knocked an arrow to his bow, the battle had already started.

The elf youth took Ayl’s attack with his bow, taking some distance with a back flip.

The youth’s bow split completely in two.

As for Ayl, she spun her sword around.

“Heeh, Taijutsu Skill. Do you also use a sword?”

The youth drew a thin, shining, silver sword like a saber from his back.

From the spaces between the trees in the surroundings, I can see aimed arrows.

For now I’ll erect a defensive barrier and prepare for extermination.

“W,what are you doing?”

Velsa asked.

“What, you ask; I’m exterminating the monsters blocking our way. It’s dangerous, so don’t leave the magic circle.”

“Monsters – that’s an elf, you know.”

“Aa, just watch.”

I took out the leftover, high grade recovery medicine from my item bag and put it in the pump.

Thinning it with a little water, after adjusting the nozzle to spray, my weapon to repulse the fake elf was finished.

“O-i! Ayl! Stop playing around and pull him over here-!”

While laughing, I call out to Ayl, who’s taking and dodging the fake elf’s attacks.

“Roger, ok! I’m sending him over-!”

Just when I heard a *bang*-, Ayle had hit the fake elf and blasted him off this way.

I sprayed the diluted recovery medicine from the nozzle.

“GyaaaaAAAAA!!!”

Together with a scream, light overflowed from the fake elf’s mouth and eyes, and then he dispersed like smoke.

After that, what was left was a dribble of dark liquid and a magic stone.

From the surroundings, arrows were released all at once.

With Ayl’s sword technique waving around and Velsa and I being within the magic circle, we didn’t have a single injury.

And I noticed a red point running away without a sound with the Search Skill.

“It’s oil, ne. I think this is a high ranking ghost terror.”

Velsa, who had scooped up the black liquid and smelled it, said.

I had exterminated the people-imitating ghost terrors before at the Adventurers Guild.

“But to imitate an elf. It can only imitate, so is there also a real one here?”

“To be living in a dungeon. I wonder, did they even make a hidden village to live here?”

“Fufufu, it was a monster with some skill. I’m feeling this-!”

As Velsa and I discussed the problem, Ayl continued into the forest.

“Ma, we’ll find out after we chase after it, huh?”

Chapter 35

“What do you think?”

Ayl asked the question with an unthinkable stern face.

“What do I think... it’s a village, right?”

“N~ ... this is totally a village, naa.”

By chasing after the elf-mimicked superior ghost terror, we discovered a village at the bottom of a cliff.

There are several rows of houses with straw-thatched roofs and mud walls. Fields are spread out around the houses.

All the villagers have taken on the forms of elves, working in the fields, selling monster meat, and spreading nuts out on mats and de-shelling them.

When I look with Search Skill, all of them are monsters.

Even though they’re monsters, they’ve made a [village].

There are species of monsters that are social, but to make a village rather than living in a nest; just what is going on?

“A, those guys.”

In the direction Ayl was pointing her finger were the fake elves who had released the arrows on us.

It looks like those guys, shouldering their bows, are conveying that danger is drawing near to the villagers.

Danger would be us, I guess.

The villagers who heard the story scattered like frenzied spiderlings into their houses, shutting the windows and doors tightly.

“We’re completely the bad guys, ne.”

Are we some mountain raiders from somewhere?¹

“What should we do?”

While watching the village that has fallen completely silent, Ayl asked.

“They can speak words, so it looks like we can have conversation; let’s try interacting?”

“Njyaa, let’s get on with it before the seven samurai are gathered around.”

The other two had a look like, “What’s a samurai?” but they properly followed me.

“Scuse me-! We don’t intend to fight! Please, listen to us-!”

“””” ””””

“No response, ne.”

There’s no response even with both hands up to show we don’t intend to fight.

I can tell that the villagers are clustered against the walls, peeking on our situation when I use the Search Skill.

It seems that the largest, most conspicuous house in the village had a large amount of the fake elves there.

“Scuse me-! Is it fine if we intrude~?”

I let out a yell in front of the large house.

“”“...mas... ter...””

From within the house you can hear muttered voices.

“What are they say?”

“Dunno.”

Did she get bored of it already? Ayl sat down on the edge of a nearby well, yawning.

Velsa got interested in something and peered inside the well, tossing small stones down it.

“O-i! I’m opening it-! If you don’t attack us, we won’t attack you either! Ok? I’m opening it-!”

So saying, when I opened the door to the house, countless arrows were fired at me.

In order to show off the difference in ability, I didn’t use a defensive barrier.

All of the arrows struck my coverall, and without piercing the arrows fell to the ground with a clattering sound.

The fake elves stare at me, dumbfounded.

Behind the bow-carrying fighters, the fake elf women and children are screaming, “Master!” towards the floor.

N~ have we done something bad?

Although they’re monsters, we defeated one, and also attacked them.

If they’re saying “Master”, they could be monsters being employed as familiars.

This, isn’t this kind of bad?

“Um, ‘master’ would be...?”

“A-! Oi! Stop! What are you doing to that well!”

One of the fighters stepped forward one step and stopped Velsa, who was throwing stones.

“””””Master!!”””””

The fake elves, with their eyes wide, stretched out their hands towards the well and yelled.

“E? What?”

For the time being, Velsa stopped her movements.

“What’s up? It’s noisy, ya know~”

I can hear a man’s voice from inside the well.

“Master! There’s invaders!”

The elves yelled from inside the house.

It feels like we’re in the way, so we moved away from the well to wait.

One of the fake elves, while being wary of us, rushed to the well.

“Master! Please save us! The invaders...”

“You guys deal with that kind of people yourself.”

“That’s, there’s a terrifyingly strong person, so Sebas was done in instantly!”

“E? Who’s that!?”

“Ah, no... the person who had the most Skills in the village!”

“A~ that so, seems tough...”

“No, master! Save us!”

“Those invaders, are they still there?”

“They are! Looking over here!”

“N~ Got it. Then, for now, pull me up~”

When that was said, the fake elf pulled on the rope for the bucket.

Along the way, a number of fake elves helped, and that man called Master crawled up out of the well.

“Upsy daisy!”

When I saw the man that came out, I felt like I had met him somewhere before.

A large nose and moustache. Thick eyebrows. Large eyes and curly sideburns.

He's not wearing a red hat and coveralls, but he looks very much like a world famous plumber with the same first and last name.²

"A, are those the invaders?"

"That's right! It's them!"

The fake elves pointed at us.

"Aa, what a nice coverall. Are you like a plumber? Me too, a long time ago-."

"No, I'm an exterminator..."

"Aa, that so? Did anyone request for pest extermination?"

Master asked the fake elves.

"No."

The fake elves shook their heads with all their might.

"A, I see. We seem to be fine. So if you would please leave."

Looks like he completely thinks I'm here for pest extermination business.

"Ah, no, um..."

"Are? Over there is a swordswoman, and the one over there is..."

"Monster researcher!"

Velsa responded

"Monster researcher? What kind of person is that? No, wait a second! Person with the coveralls, can you be a person transported from a different world?"

"Yeah, that's right... we came here to study monsters."

"Aa-! Is that how it is? Sorry, I completely... misunderstood. Man, I've been isolated in this dungeon for around 300 years so I'm ignorant about the ways of the world. I do beg your pardon."

“Let’s do it over. I am also a transported person.”

“About 300 years ago I was summoned to this world as a Hero.”

“The Demon King was defeated by another Hero, so, maa, my time as the Hero crumbled.”

“Now I’m this dungeon’s Dungeon Master.”

“Haa-!?”

My stupid-sounding voice echoed throughout the village.

Chapter 36

“A~... it’s delicious.”

“It’s this year’s shinchā.¹”

The Dungeon Master poured another of serving of green tea from the small teapot into the tea cup.

Currently, I, Ayl, and Velsa, we three are intruding in the Dungeon Master’s residential subspace at the bottom of the well.

The Dungeon Master, who looks very much like a world famous plumber, is named Marcus-san; he doesn’t have the same 5 letter name as his first and last name².

After finishing our introductions, we are sitting on mats plaited from robust leaves in a corner of the room.

On top of the mat is a tea table; for a Japanese person it’s extremely calming.

Ayl and Velsa are a little puzzled that there are no chairs.

Oh yeah, the only people who sit on the floor in this world are slaves and me, when I’m making medicine.

“Is that the dungeon core?”

Velsa pointed at a large, glittering, golden orb enshrined on a shelf in the back.

‘No, that’s a monster’s magic stone. The dungeon core is way further below. And for that matter, it’s in a place where only I can go.’

“That big of a magic stone... no way!?”

“Is it the magic stone of a giant monster on the surface!?”

Ayl and Velsa raised startled voices.

“That’s right. I absolutely need large magic stones in order to maintain the dungeon. I can’t get power all at once from a lot of small magic stones, ne.”

This dungeon in its entirety has an amazing ecosystem.

A giant maze and a vast forest. And furthermore, there seems to be things like a lava zone and desert on lower levels.

And within is an enormous number of monsters living their lives.

This environment was made by just one person, the Dungeon Master Marcus-san.

When I honestly praise him,

“Though it’s become much easier now, thanks to the ghaſt terrors,”

Marcus-san had ſaid.

Ghaſt terrors are the ſuperior ghooſt terrors, ſo the ones who made the village are the fake elves.

“Why do they have the forms of elves?”

“The ones who protect the forests are elves, right? And alſo for my personal intereſts, I gueſs.”

“Where is this dungeon’s ſtrongeſt monſter?”

“I wonder where it is. The further down you go the ſtronger the monſter are, but truthfully, if you’re talking about individual ſtrength, aren’t the monſters on the ſurface ſtronger?”

“How many different ſpecies of monſters does this dungeon have?”

“I don’t really count much. There are alſo thoſe guys who evolve on their own. If you’re a monſter ſcholar, won’t you try to count them?”

“H,ha...”

Marcus-san answered Velsa and Ayl’s queſtions while laughing.

“Why are you a dungeon maſter?”

“N? Nn...”

To my queſtion, Marcus-san ſcratched his forehead, ſmiling bitterly.

That might have been bad to ask.

“That kind of this is complicated. Rather, why is Naoki-kun exterminating pests? You’ve come to a different world with such great pains, so wouldn’t it be fine to do something different? The world has magic and levels, and even things like skills, so I think it could be amusing.”

When we were introducing ourselves, I conveyed that I was from a place called Earth, I worked as a pest exterminator, and my previous world didn’t have things like magic and levels.

By the way, Marcus-san doesn’t seem to have come from Earth.

It’s just, from what I heard about, it seems it’s a world that’s a lot like Japan.

I wonder if it’s the Mushroom Kingdom?

Ayl and Velsa were surprised that I had come from another world, but they assented to it with, “It’s not like it doesn’t happen.”

“In my case, it’s just that it’s the fastest way to earn money, I guess.”

“I see, so that means you weren’t particularly summoned here, ne.”

“Yeah, my memories already fuzzy, but I died once in my previous world and was picked up by this world’s god. I can’t remember what kind of face the god was making or what kind of voice he had. Even the god’s divine protection or a mission, I can’t remember anything like that. My level rises easily because of my occupation though...”

“I see, how nice.”

Marcus-san was smiling a lonely smile.

“How nice?”

“Because I was summoned in order to defeat the demon king, ne. When there was no demon king anymore, I wasn’t needed for anything.”

On top of being summoned, if I was told I wasn’t needed anymore because the demon king was gone, I’d yell, “Don’t screw with me!”

“To that point, you can live as you like. If god had any expectations of you, then god would have provided some skills and abilities. You are completely free. Your goals and dreams, your life’s fate, and even your place in this world are decided by yourself. Have you found any kind of goal in this world?”

“Not anything in particular yet. I was thinking I’d travel around the world and decide on it slowly.”

“Un, that’s good.”

After that, with Velsa and Ayl asking Marcus-san questions, the tea was gone.

“If you would like, should I show you around the dungeon?”

“Is that okay?”

“””Please do.”””

Marcus-san said, “It’s because I have guests after so long,” and cleaned up the tea.

Before we came to the dungeon, the only ones who came seemed to be mostly adventurers who came to level up and demons who came to solicit him.

“There weren’t many people who came to converse,” he said.

Furthermore, when the giant monsters appeared outside, absolutely no one came.

“This way.”

So saying, Marcus-san opened a window in the room.

It was mysterious that there was window when we were underground, but it appears to be a passage.

When we climbed through the window, it was a desert.

Like the forest, it’s a place that’s bathed in a light like sunlight from the ceiling, and the ground is all sand.

Other than that, there’s nothing that can be seen.

“The monsters here are the strongest in this dungeon, I guess? If you’d like, would you like to fight a little?”

“E! Is that okay?”

Ayl excitedly asked.

“Aa, just, I’ll have nothing to do with it if you die.”

Ayl is quite agitated.

Although Velsa and I aren’t particularly interested in fighting strong monsters.

“Then why don’t you go by yourself? We’ll come later to pick you up.”

“I, is that okay?”

Ayl jumped on my suggestion.

Ayl’s level has risen and she’s become inhuman-ish, so if an opponent she can’t defeat appears, then she can run away from it by herself.

“But in that get up, won’t you die of dehydration before you fight a monster?”

Ayl’s in her usual bikini armor.

It can’t be helped so I lent her my coverall.

I also handed over a waterskin from the item bag.

“Then, later!”

So saying, Ayl raced off into the desert.

“She’s lively, na. Then, this way.”

Seeing Ayl off, Marcus-san brushed aside the sand from where he was standing and pulled up a lid on the ground that was like the top door of a cellar.

So there are stairs there.

When I went to descend, there was a smell like rot.

It was a unique smell, like the smell of mold.

It’s completely different from the desert; it’s cool and chilly, and dark and humid.

I, in a T-shirt and shorts, quickly regretted lending my coverall to Ayl.

“We’re not going to some place like a glacier, right?”

I asked, with goosebumps appearing.

“Aa, you’ll be fine like that. But it’s a little gloomy.”

Marcus-san produced a fire ball and floated it in his hand.

“I’m not particularly specialized in magic, but this at least I’m good at.”

So saying, Marcus-san went to descend the stairs.

When we descended the last of the stairs, it’s a dark cave-like place, so when we looked at our feet, there were mushrooms being cultivated there.

Marcus-san lit a nearby torch with the fire, and in an instant, countless torches installed along the wall lit up, making the room bright.

The room’s size is quite wide, probably about like a baseball stadium.

There, completely covering the ground, are mushrooms being cultivated.

And, when I look with Search Skill, there are monsters rustling about.

Small masmascarl are winding between our feet.

“This here is this dungeon’s hidden spot.”

Marcus-san said boastfully.

Chapter 37

Marcus-san's mushrooms aren't red with white spots, they're the normal brown mushrooms.

However,

"These mushrooms make the monsters giant."

The effect is like THAT example.

"I failed at mastering my skills. My Skill to enslave monsters didn't rise much. The only ones I could enslave are just these guys, ne."

When Marcus-san said that, the masmascarl running about our feet gathered.

It's 2, 3 times the masmascarl I've seen in the city.

There are also ones that have defecated near the mushrooms, so I know these ones have substance.

"Their reproductive abilities are also quite high; they increase rapidly so they're handy."

"Are these masmascarl going to get bigger than this?"

Velsa asked.

"Aa, there are individual differences, but around this size is the masmascarl's limit. If they evolve, that's another matter, though. Before that I'll release them."

"Release?"

Perhaps the masmascarl horde when we came to this island was Marcus-san releasing them.

"Once every 10 days, I release the masmascarl who have increased too much outside. Because the giant-sized monsters on this island will eat them. The masmascarl who are still alive will bring back corpses of giant monsters to the dungeon. I take out the magic stone from those corpses and use them to manage the dungeon."

Marcus-san pointed at the giant field boar corpse.

“Why do the masmascarl bring the corpses to the dungeon?”

“I think it’s probably a homing instinct. About that, I did take notes on it just in case, but would you like to see it later? I want to try asking a professional monster researcher.”

“Of course! Please show me!”

Velsa’s eyes shone.

“By the way, yesterday I released them, and that night they immediately came back bringing monster corpses. That has never happened before, but was that because of you guys?”

“Aa, that was probably the fault of this.”

I took out the confusion bell and showed it to him.

“This is?”

“When they hear the sound of this bell, monsters have a fixed probability of becoming confused. Yesterday I used it when the masmascarl horde came attacking so they started eating each other, and some also evolved into poison masmascarls, and the horde at some giant monsters.”

When I honestly answered, Marcus-san examined the confusion bell.

“Confusion, huh. I see. You have an interesting thing with you,”

he muttered.

Observing the mushrooms and masmascarl with Velsa, after a while, for some reason the masmascarl gathered around me.

“Aa, it’s because monsters will approach people with high magic power. If you can control your magic power, try suppressing it as much as you can.”

I haven’t done it much before, but when I tried to do so, it wasn’t perfect, but I managed it.

Somehow, I think the masmascarl who came over are also reducing in number.

Just that several of them are winding about my feet without leaving.

“Hahaha, they like you, na. Before you get peed on, let’s go to my workshop.”

Bringing us along, Marcus-san headed to a place like the office of a warehouse.

The workshop seems to be Marcus-san’s private room, so there’s a large workbench and bookshelf, as well as things like a small kitchen and potted plants area where unidentified vegetation is growing.

There’s a door that seems to lead further inside.

“Next door is the bedroom.”

While saying that, Marcus-san lit a fire in the cooking range in the kitchen and placed a pot on top.

Velsa quickly went to the bookshelf and began to select books.

“A, around that area is all notes and records.”

When Marcus-san told Velsa, Velsa piled books on top of the workbench and began to read them greedily.

Looks like the books are handmade with monster leather.

“You’re skilled.”

“No, I messed up on a number of books. Look, the spine’s binding is all messed up.”

Certainly the book on the end of the bookshelf had a poor shape and was all messed up.

From within a small cask, Marcus-san took out dried tea leaves and began making tea.

“A, do you have a tea plantation?”

“I do! Actually I haven’t been managing the dungeon. Recently I’ve been going this direction. Want to see?”

“Yeah, if it’s okay.”

“Alright! Have a little tea and we’ll go!”

“A, if you’d like, do you want to put the tea in this bag and drink it at the tea plantation?”

“O, you can do that? Nice!”

“Velsa, what do you want to do?”

Velsa, reading books like she’s drooling over them, didn’t move her gaze from the books and,

“I won’t go,”

and turned the page.

With her like this, then she won’t be needing tea either.

Leaving just a water skin, Marcus-san and I put the pot and teacups in the item bag and head over to visit the tea plantation.

We reach the tea plantation quickly from the workshop.

With a bang as we descended a well, there’s a compact tea field.

The ceiling is, like always, a blue sky.

The room’s size isn’t that large, but it’s well-maintained.

“I also offered it to the ghastrons, but they don’t seem to like it much. It’s just for my use, so it’s this big.”

“I see; it’s a good tea plantation.”

In actuality, it’s very quiet and a pleasant wind is blowing.

“Thanks.”

I take Forest Rabbit furs out from the item bag and make a rug.

While drinking tea, Marcus-san told me about the hard times when he had tea seedlings and how to make the rush mats, and we had a heartwarming time.

“A, that’s right. Marcus-san, do you know anything about resistance skills?”

“A~, that’s a transmigrated person for you, naa. I do know of it, but I don’t recommend

it.”

“E? Why is that?”

“You see...”

Marcus-san, when he had seen how easily this world’s adventurers die, immediately learned the Resistance Skill.

He didn’t look at production skills and magic skills and the like.

“For the attack skills, your physical strength is originally strong so I didn’t take as many. Anyway, I was desperate to raise defensive type skills and the Resistance Skill. I didn’t want to die, and at that time I also had comrades I didn’t want to part with.”

Somehow, it seems that he had comrades during the time he was the Hero.

“When I had raised all the defense type skills, a unique skill appeared, called [Immortal Body]. I had the shield role, so I quickly put in skill points. Another reason might also be because there was an elf I liked in the party.”

Elves are long-lived races.

He might have thought that if he was immortal, they could be together for a long time.

“Even so, in a certain dungeon we were wiped out.”

“E!?”

“Naoki-kun, what do you think will happen when you remove a dungeon core?”

“U,um. I don’t know.”

“The dungeon will swallow everything.”

The fingers of Marcus-san, who is remembering old memories, are trembling.

Was it a greatly terrifying memory or a painful memory; it’s probably both.

“It was 3 months after the dungeon collapsed. I returned to the surface. I was the only immortal, so I survived. All my other comrades were swallowed up by the dungeon and died. Within those 3 months the Demon King was defeated. All I had left was the dungeon core grasped in my hand, and this undying body.”

I couldn’t find the words to say, and could only suck in my breath.

“People who have skills are overconfident. What you need isn’t an undying body, but knowledge on how not to die. And for that, I made a dungeon on this island to research within.”

“...Is that how it was?”

What I squeezed out were merely words with no meaning.

I regretted my question.

“Therefore, to my fellow transmigrator, I will give a warning. Skills are, in the end, just skills. It’s better to use your skill points to make your life enjoyable.”

For me right now, Marcus-san’s words are heavy words.

“Should we return?”

Marcus-san said as he raised his hips and stood up.

“Yes.”

I do the same and stand up.

“A, right. Naoki-kun, is it alright to make a request of you as an adventurer?”

“What is it?”

“If there’s a chance that you visit the elves’ country, I want you to look for a girl named Sonia. When an elf dies, their soul returns to under the world tree in their birthplace in the elf country, and are reborn.”

“Understood.”

It must be from before, the elf that was Marcus-san’s comrade.

“And then there’s one more thing...”

Not good. If the other request is what I’m expecting, I can’t take it.

“I don’t have any intentions of learning a skill that can steal someone’s skill. Of course, I don’t even know if such a skill exists, and even if I somehow get that skill, I wouldn’t tell Marcus-san.”

If a person lives for over 300 years because of a skill, is the skill was suddenly gone...

That, it's just like murdering Marcus-san so I can't do it.

"...Haha, no, would you come for tea from time to time?"

"A, sorry. I got the wrong idea. Got it. From time to time I'll come to this island."

I'm completely embarrassed and apologetic.

"Are you able to see the future...?"

As I was folding the forest rabbit furs and stuffing them in the item bag, I thought I heard Marcus-san saying something in a small voice.

Chapter 38

Returning to the workshop, Velsa seems to have frozen into the position she had been in when we left, reading a book.

She couldn't have stopped breathing, could she? Thinking like so, when I went over to see, her the sound of inhalation and exhalation are coming from her nose, so looks like she's alive.

When I went to pick Ayl up, she's all beat up, collapsed in the desert.

"My coverall!"

My coverall was torn in various places, completely covered with blood and sand.

"My bad. I'm... done... for..."

Ayl's consciousness, seemingly accompanied with a snapping sound effect, cut off.

She remained asleep even while I smeared wound medicine on her, so she must have been completely exhausted.

When I returned to the workshop, hefting Ayl on my shoulder, Velsa and Marcus-san were discussing monsters together.

"Then it's true that dungeon-born monsters have no substance?"

"Un, none, I'd say. As for us, we have the forest and the giant monsters' meat has been diffused throughout, so pretty much all of them have substance. They're also breeding by themselves so there are a lot troublesome things. A, welcome back."

Marcus-san looked over and called out to us.

"I'm back. Um, Marcus-san, can we stay a night?"

"Aa, I don't mind. You can stay as long as you need. I'd like to talk to Velsa-chan more."

Marcus-san cheerfully agreed to it.

“A, that’s right. Naoki-kun, can I ask you to exterminate some pests?”

“Yah, that’s fine.”

I regretted agreeing to it so easily the moment I was brought to the place I was to do the extermination.

Severe cold.

A complete snowscape.

The wind whipped up the swirling snow on the ground and flew continuously into my face.

At first Marcus was trying to make a food storage but it got too big, he said.

“Yeah, I can’t really go in shorts and a t-shirt,” I said and tried to wear wild bear furs, but there a lot of gaps where the cold air came in.

I’ll die like this.

For now I returned to the workshop, took the coverall off the sleeping Ayl and, after using Cleanup, sewed the ripped parts together and applied a cold-resistance magic circle.

Thanks to Ayl habitually using the good-smelling soap Teyl had made, the coverall smells strangely nice so I got kind of angry. Even though it’s just Ayl!

It took me a long time since I didn’t have the Sewing Skill, so Marcus-san waited for me while drinking tea and talking to Velsa.

“Sorry, I made you wait. My preparations are finally done.”

“Oh no, my request was sudden, ne. And so, what I want you to exterminate is a monster called a snow fox. They’ve multiplied a bit too much. I’ve left them free since their droppings are good fertilizer, but it seems they’ve been digging up the hibernating white grezzlies and attacking them. Originally they’re supposed to be preying on things like snow rabbits, but the snow rabbit number has been falling, ne.”

“Got it. I’ll see what I can do.”

“Then I’ll be waiting in the workshop, making dinner, so don’t push yourself too hard and catch a cold. Catching a cold in a dungeon is seriously bad.”

“Roger!”

Seeing off Marcus-san as he took his leave, for now I’ll make an igloo for my base.

Making a mound of snow, I stomped on it to compress it, then dug out a hole.

Drawing the inductive-heating magic circle within, I made a warm spot.

Since this level was apparently made with the image of the polar regions, it seems that blizzards frequently occur.

“Seems I froze it a little too much,”

Marcus-san had said.

Once every 3 months, an air duct is opened to the lava zone on the level above to make something like a summer.

At that time, small white flowers bloom all at once and it’s very pretty.

It’s just that those white flowers are flowers that can be used to make sleeping medicine; he discovered that later, and “I nearly froze to death like that,” he said.¹

“Now then...”

Due to everything being snow, I can’t imagine there are monsters here at all, but with Search Skill I can tell there are a lot of monsters hiding within the snow.

The bodies of monsters here would naturally be white, so finding them is exceedingly difficult.

I don’t know what they eat, but for now I take wild bear meat and field boar meat out from the item bag and soak them in paralysis medicine and poison.

Although I try to soak them, they immediately froze.

Outside of the igloo I spread out a wood board and draw an inductive-heating magic

circle on top; while it's warm I can soak the meat, but did the medicinal efficacy disappear? I can't smell it much.

I tried scattering the meat in the surroundings, but it froze immediately, so I don't know if the snow foxes will eat it.

Next I try to dig out a pitfall.

But the snow immediately covered it, so on top of not know where it is, the snow also caved it in, so I'm aware that this will be ineffective.

I thought about making something like a bear trap, but the probability of catching a different monster is high so I stopped.

"So I'll have to thoroughly search, huh?"

It looks like I have no choice but to find them and then draw a magic circle to kill them.

Just when I had thought that, I saw a white wave washing over everything from the direction of the field of snow.

"A blizzard?!"

When I hurried back to the igloo, there were two snow foxes holed up within.

I killed them with a knife and waited for the blizzard to leave.

The snow foxes resisted and bit me, but because I was wearing the coverall it didn't really hurt or anything, so I used brute force to push them down, then stabbed at their throats.

When I determined they were dead, I put them in the item bag.

I'll have Ayl dismantle them later.

"I guess I'll go with this for the trap."

Chapter 39

When the blizzard ended, I made a number of igloos and returned to the workshop.

When I opened the door,

“I returned just now–” (Naoki)

“Thanks for your work –” (Marcus)

and Marcus-san’s voice called out.

And suddenly I remembered the company I had been at before I came to the other world.

Coming back to my senses,

“Sorry, it looks like the extermination will take some time.”(Naoki)

“Oo, I don’t mind. As for where to sleep, how is the bottom of the well in the forest?”(Marcus)

It’s the place where we had first had tea.

There should be thatched rugs there, so let’s put the tea table away and sleep there.

“Thank you very much.”

When I explained the snow fox extermination to Marcus-san,

“I see, using the blizzards? How interesting.”

“I was thinking that just leaving them buried like that would be fine, but they might dig themselves out, or other monsters might be caught in them, so I’ll check it out tomorrow morning, and if it seems I’ve caught something, I was thinking I’d go trap them once in the morning and once in the afternoon.”

“O-, got it. I’ll adjust the blizzards. It will also make the refrigerator a little more ideal.”

Marcus-san called the glacier area the ‘refrigerator’.

It's too foolish!

It was time for dinner, so I woke Ayl and peeled Velsa away from her book.

I took off my coverall outside the workshop and spread out the places that were torn; the thread for the shock resistance and slash resistance magic circles had melted.

Is that why Ayl took on those wounds? Or like, did Ayl melt off those threads while fighting? For crying out, this is seriously a pain. What a troublesome person!

Huh? Just a bit ago the snow foxes bit me, but nothing happened...

I quietly took out my Adventurer Card, and when I looked at the back, my level had become 91.

For now, I didn't see anything; I quietly put the card back.

"I guess I'll take the Sewing Skill. I don't have anything else I'm bothered with."

If I raised it immediately it would be suspicious, so for now I just raise Sewing Skill to 2.

At the same time, I also raise Cooking Skill by 2.

One way or another, it looks like it will be used in the future.

There are 27 points remaining.

For now, my Skills are:

Language Ability – Dragonman Language

Life Magic Level 5, CleanUp

Fire Magic Level 1

Compounding Skill Level 10

Search Skill Level 10

Pharmacy Skill Level 10

Alchemy Level 10

Arithmetic Level 10

Magic Circle Studies Level 10

Craftship Level 10
Magic Tool Production Skill Level 10
Sewing Skill Level 2
Cooking Skill Level 2

Is how it is.

I have no interest in fighting.

I'll fix the coverall later; it's dinner time.

Marcus-san came and set out a hotpot.

The vegetables were picked from the forest, and the meat was unsparingly used from the giant monster meat.

The seasonings are salt and pepper.

Previously the salt seemed to have been made by the indigenous people of this island, but they made canoes and went off somewhere, so now they pull seawater into the dungeon and make it themselves.

It seems that the vegetables and pepper are offered to the well for the dungeon master by the fake elves.

The hotpot's meat was delicious and seemed to just melt; when I asked what kind of meat it was, he said it was meat from a captured field boar.

I've eaten field boar meat before, but for it to be the same meat yet be so different.

The three of us ate our fill, then headed over to the bottom of the well in the forest.

"Naoki has work tomorrow, right?"

When we had tidied the area on top of the rugs, Ayl, wrapped in furs, asked so.

"Aa, I hope it goes well."

I'm watching the ticks inside the bottle.

I had just put raw meat inside.

"Are you really going to raise them?"

"Of course. I've already determined that regular poison doesn't work on them."

"What!?"

Velsa raised her voice.

"Paralysis also doesn't work. Muscle relaxants probably also won't work, since they don't have muscles in the first place, naa."

The raw meat had common poison and paralysis medicine in it.

Pretty sure that tick insecticide used chrysanthemum as a natural ingredient, right? I dug out some knowledge from my previous world.

Are there any flowers bugs don't approach? Tomorrow I'll try asking Marcus-san.

"For crying out loud; Naoki, Marcus-san, just what are you two?! I'm losing my confidence as a monster scholar!"

Velsa seems to have been considerably overwhelmed when she read Marcus-san's book (*Records*) and talked with him.

Apparently at Marina Port there were too many observers, and she also had rivals, so she couldn't do any experiments that were prohibited by the Association. Although I don't know what kind of experiments they would be.

"As for me, as for me-!... *snore... snore...*"

You fell asleep? Oi!

Like we were following after Velsa, who suddenly fell asleep after getting all fired up, Ayl and I also slept.

The next day, there was a soft scratching sound early in the morning.

It's the work for repairing the coverall.

Using monster leather as a patch, I patched up the torn spots.

I burned a shock resistance magic circle on the monster leather.

I used magic power to draw the magic circle and burned it in with fire magic.

If this grants the entire coverall with shock resistance, then not only would this way be a lot faster to make, there are also other applications.

For now I have Ayl, who's woken up, hit me while I'm wearing the coverall, and nothing happened.

"Because there's a level difference! Let me try wearing it!"

I let Ayl put it on as she said, and this time I try hitting her.

She collided with the wall like a light pinball, but

"Oo-! Nothing happened! Nothing happened, but you didn't have to hit it with all your might, right-!?"

Crap. The accumulated daily irritations came out.

"Naoki, you leveled up again, haven't you!?"

"N? Yah, a little, na. Really, just a little."

"Show me!"

Ayl demanded that I show her my Adventurer Card.

"Ah, no, it's fine, right? I don't have to for this type of thing."

"Come on, hurry up and show me!"

"Nn? What's up?"

Velsa woke up.

"Good morning, Velsa. Now, it's time for work; work time."

"Velsa! Naoki won't show me his Adventurer Card!"

“What!!?... E? And why is that a problem?”

“It looks like his level went up a~gain!”

“A~, because he single-handedly defeated hordes of echizzen (jellyfishy things) and masmascarl, as well as giant monsters. And so, what number has your level become?”

With both of them pressuring me, I made my confession.

“Ni... 91?”

“ “91!!” “

“Oi oi, isn’t that completely unprecedented!?”

“And all without taking battle-related skills, just how!?”

“ “Weird!! You’re a weirdo!!” “

“Am not-!!”

Saying that, I ran to the [Refrigerator] like I was fleeing.

Since I had left the coverall with Ayl like that, I stuck a patch with a cold-resistance magic circle on wild bear furs and entered the glacier zone, the [Refrigerator].

The work went smoothly. I’m glad I took the Sewing Skill.

It’s not cold at a-ll!

Patches are super convenient!

When I used the Search Skill to look for monsters, there was quite a number of monsters buried underneath the hardened snow.

When I dug them up, I only killed the snow foxes.

The incredibly adorable rabbit monsters, the snow rabbits, I let free outside.

Although they came and bit me before running away.

But I've determined that the igloo traps are effective, so once again I make igloos within this area.

While I was moving from place to place and making the igloos, I hunted all the snow foxes I found.

I'd run at them, jump, and stomp them; just like that.

I bumped off 24 of them through traps and hunting.

I went to the workshop, reported it to Marcus-san, and talked about what was next while eating breakfast.

Velsa has already taken up position at the workbench, reading a book.

I assume Ayl's in the desert.

"How many should I reduce them by?"

"I wonder; I'd like you to reduce them as much as you can, but I wouldn't mind if up to about half."

"Half – how much would that be?"

"500, I guess. If they breed, then even more, naa."

"I think it will take quite a bit of time..."

"Aa, it's no problem for me. It seems like Ayl-chan and Velsa-chan has other things they want to do here, so why don't you stay for a while? Although I understand if you have things you need to do."

We don't have anything we need to do, so we'll be staying for a while longer.

Chapter 40

I left all of the snow fox dismantling to Ayl.

I lent her my coverall, so I won't let her make any complaints.

I don't know how or what Ayl uses it for, but she comes back with the coverall all torn up every day.

Even though it has badges like slash resistance, shock resistance, magic resistance, and even poison resistance, it's like that.

"Why don't you try to avoid the attacks a little?"

"This is that guy's fault. It's fine, because I can feel myself getting stronger day by day."

I don't know what exactly is fine, but it's like Ayl's principles are like a pro-wrestler, taking the monsters' attacks head on.

Since she's been staying in the dungeon's desert, her body's muscular feeling isn't half-assed.

She eats more than the average person too, but Marcus-san said even if she eats that much he won't run out of food and continued to grill meat.

And then, when her stomach's full, so goes to sleep.

Exactly what are you? A grappler who can challenge even a mountain monkey or something? Without minding my gaze at all, Ayl lets out a magnificent snore.

There's one more person who let out that kind of snore.

It's Velsa.

Just when I thought she was engrossed in reading Marcus-san's books greedily, suddenly she began dissecting masmascarl and conversing with Marcus-san restlessly. And when I think she's doing that, suddenly she's closed her eyes, not saying anything.

And when I think she's sleeping, her eyes pop open like lightning and her pen runs along the parchment. To be honest, it's kind of scary.

Anyway, she's been thinking about it constantly. "I'm even thinking in my dreams, so," she can't tell reality from her dreams, and she asks things like, "Did that experiment succeed?" about an experiment she hasn't even done.

She seems to be researching the attributes and colors of magic stones right now.

Like when a monster evolves, do the magic stone's color and attributes change?

I was thinking I should stop her if she began to fiddle with the masmascarl's brains.

But Marcus-san said, "They'll increase soon anyway~", so it seems like it's fine to use as many masmascarl for test subjects as you want. Forget it, it's not my problem anymore.

As for me, I'm fox-hunting everyday in the glacier zone called the [Refrigerator].

I catch and finish off 20, 30 of them a day.

From time to time I'll encounter a thin white grezzlie, but when I hit them once they'll leave obediently.

I'm really nervous when I woke up a hibernating parent and child white grezzlie.

I dig up the places where the Search Skill shows monsters gathered, so I confused the den the white grezzlies were hibernating in for an igloo buried in the blizzard.

For the time being, I presented them with the meat of the superfluous snow foxes, and when they ate it happily, I was glad.

From then on, I gave snow fox meat to all the white grezzlies I met.

The feeding was a success, and there were even ones that got attached.

During that time, I found out why the snow foxes were increasing.

The white grezzlies, who prey on the snow foxes, suck at hunting.

Without even sneaking up on their prey, they rush at the snow foxes to attack them and quickly get tired and give up.

When it seemed like one was going to give up, I kicked its butt and got him to go, and he was finally able to catch one.

When one succeeded, the other white grezzlies began to imitate it, and even if they got

tired, they kept at it without giving up.

With this, the situation in the [Refrigerator] might get a little better.

With this and that, 20 days passed.

I had caught 600 snow foxes, Ayl had become the fighting companion to “a stupidly huge scorpion and an earthworm you wouldn’t believe the size to, and a double-headed king cobra and stuff”, and Velsa had written up two theses (*The Changes of Magic Stones with Evolution*, *The Portion of the Brain that is most Effective in Providing Psychosis Magic for Monsters*).

In the end, Velsa was messing with brains.

“Ah, you’ve saved me~”

“Nah, to put us up for such a long time is unthinkable; we’ve caused you quite a bit of trouble.”

“Oh no, it’s been so long since I’ve spent time with people, so I’ve also had fun. A, this is the reward for the snow foxes.”

“Nah, it’s okay! You let us stay, so let me do this much in return.”

“Oh no, this is work, isn’t it?”

“Nah... is that so~ then”

“The ‘nah’s lost.”

“Yup.”

Ayl muttered about Marcus-san and my conversation, and Velsa agreed.

Marcus-san handed over a bag filled with large amounts of silver and gold coins.

“No, um, aren’t you giving us too much?”

“I can’t use the money even if it remained here. It’s better for someone who can use it

to have it.”

“Even so, this is too much.”

“A, that’s right. Naoki, I didn’t use the research funds, so I’m returning them, ne.”

So saying, Velsa handed over a pouch with gold coins inside in repayment.

“It’s a sudden windfall, na.”

“I’m the type that destroys himself with money, though...”

“E? What do you...?”

“See, actually, I...

Before I came to this world, I had randomly bought a year-end lottery ticket and won.

I was initially happy about it, but suddenly relatives I never knew and close friends I don’t remember increased.

I handed a bunch of it over to my close siblings and good friends, but as for the crowd I couldn’t care less about coming for it, I hated it so much that I threw all of it in the stock market. What became of it afterwards, I don’t know. The country hadn’t been destroyed when I came over to this world, so there should be some left, but with how things are now, I really don’t care.

So that’s why.

I’ve come to think that I’m fine as long as I have enough money to live on.

When I randomly get a lot of money, I’m terrified that weird people will come calling, so I’ll spend it at an establishment with high-class onee-sans, or impulsively spend it on useless stuff on the jungle¹.

– is the past I wish I had...”

“E? It was a lie?”

“E? What’s a lottery?”

“E? Anyway, what is a lottery?”

“ “ “E? That was all a lie?” “ “

“It’s a lie. Actually, I have a ‘sickness’ where I will go for the soap bubbles and the slippery sumo² and spend all my money, so I’ve come to think that I should just get what money I can and spend it wisely.”

“What’s with that”

“ “ “ Weirdo!!” “ “

“Am not!”

“Then,”

“ “ “Thank you for your hospitality!!” “ “

“Come again sometime~!”

Marcus-san continued to wave his hand at us as we left the dungeon.

“Aa-! That’s right! The boat was broken, ne.”

“A, that’s right. Gotta fix it.”

“Just down some trees around here, and Naoki will fix it real fast and it will be done soon, right?”

“That, isn’t the role I have a bit too major?”

While we were saying things like that, we came out of the jungle and headed to our broken boat at the sandy beach.

And, when we reached the beach,

“ “ “ Was the boat always like that?” “ “

All three of us asked.

A huge dragon body had sprouted from the ship.

A, no, more like, a dragon had thrust its head into the boat would be the correct way to say it?

The glitsening of the blue scales as the sun hit them was blinding.

For now, I, who has learned the dragon language, drew near and called out to it.

“Excuse me!... What are you doing!?”

The dragon is trying to take the ship off its head with its front fins, so I’ll also help.

The face that came out with a *pop* was smooth and pretty.

It’s eyes were big, and the fins on its cheeks were thin and clear.

“Gyaa—su!”

The dragon cried out.

“A-, I thought I was going to die! You’ve helped me, thank you!... Nn? You, you’re carrying a dragon’s magic stone?! Un, with this scent, there is no way I’m wrong!”

And that was how we met Water Dragon-chan.

Chapter 41

I took the large magic stone Red Dragon gave me from out of the item bag and showed it to the water dragon.

“Right, right, that’s it. That Red Dragon boy gave it to you, correct?”

“Yes. Should I return it?”

“Oh no, it’s fine, it’s fine. It’s something, like, a dragon’s mark, so don’t lose it, ‘kay?”

Currently, this matter has a really troublesome scent to it.

Like I thought, I shouldn’t have taken this thing from the red dragon.

It’s to the point that I want to throw it away right here if I could.

You can’t give away just anything.

Expensive things are never really free, after all.

“Do you have any business here?” (Naoki)

“Like, not business, but I’m way troubled; won’t you save me?”

This gal-like Water Dragon-chan looks to be over 600 years old.

I thought that she doesn’t feel like she’s over 500 years old, but looks like it’s just because she uses words young people use.

When I didn’t properly call her “Water Dragon-chan”, she said, “Imma chomp you up!” so I’ll definitely call her Water Dragon-chan.

“What should we do to save you? For us, our boat’s been broken to the point where we need saving, though.”

“Aa! But, like, this boat was broken from the beginning, ya? I was, like, anyone home,

so I peeked, then my head got stuck and all. But, like, isn't this boat, like, small? Isn't it, like, the size of a red bean? Like, a red bean sized boat, isn't that screwy?"

I don't really get it, but anyway, I can tell she's trying to say that it's not her fault that the boat is broken.

"Anyway, I'll listen to what you have to say, but while I'm fixing that red bean sized boat, 'kay?"

"OK!"

Bang! Bang! Bang! Clangclangclangclang-!

Felling trees, I immediately processed them.

Normally I should dry them, but right now it doesn't matter as long as they'll cover the hole that was opened up in the boat.

Ayl cut the trees, Velsa stripped them of their branches, and I, using a sword bestowed with a wind magic magic-circle in place of a chainsaw, cut the trees into boards.

Water Dragon-chan was at the water's edge, slapping her fins against the water's surface, and beginning to tell her story.

"Recently, it's like, you know, I got a boyfriend. But, like, getting your first boyfriend after 600 years, isn't that, like, way sad? I'm like, can I even still lay eggs!?"

So dragons lay eggs afterall, huh?

"Ah, no, like, that's not what I wanted to talk about; it's like recently, you know, he's like, kinda going to those shops that have girls. Isn't that, like, way shady?"

Exactly what is a 'shop that has girls' that a dragon goes to?

And like, how would I know anything about dragon love stories!?

What's with this story, the problem she has isn't being made clear at all -!

"Sorry, but I kind of have no idea what you're talking about!"

“E? For reals!? You don’t get it!?”

“In the first place, what do you mean, a shop that a dragon goes to? Exactly what kind of sacred place would that be?”

“Ain’t no way it’s a sacred place!”

“Then, how does he enter the shop?”

“Humanization magic, duh! You know! Like, figure it out!”

I don’t, like, know! I’m not a dragon!

I swallowed my words and listen to her story.

“My boyfriend’s, like, way cool. Like, to where you think the dragonnewt girls will all totes fall for him. Like, he’d just be like, ‘Wanna join my family,’ and they’d, like, go for it.”

I kind of get most of the story, but why is she looking to me for help?

“And? What do you need me to save you from?”

“Well it’s, like, kinda about extermination from what I hear about my boyfriend. Feel like exterminating some dragonnewt girls a little?”

Dragonnewts are lizard beastmen, right?

“Nope, impossible.”

“E? Why?”

“In the first place, is your boyfriend Red Dragon?”

“Eh? How’d you catch on?”

“You just said so.”

“Uwa-, not fair! You’re so not fair! No way~. No, like, he was way cute, like, when we first met he gave me wyvern meat as a present, and it was then, like, stuff like, yeah, so he stole my heart... or like, I ‘lost’ it...”

Don’t want to hear it! Just why do I have to hear about a dragon’s sex life!?

And, just what are you doing, Red Dragon!?

You just left the wyvern cave recently.

Just when I thought you got out of being a shut-in, you immediately put your hands on someone?

And then, going to stores that have human girls, just what are you doing?

I'm getting more and more pissed off.

"I get it. I can't exterminate anyone, but I can give Red Dragon a punch!"

"O-, you feeling up for it?"

"I feel bad, but when we're done with the repairs, will you pull our boat to the place the store is?"

"OK!"

And that's that.

The boat repairs continued at a fast pace, but in the end, even though we stopped up the hole, night had fallen.

We didn't have nails for the boards, so we stuck them on using the magic-circle used for the sticky traps.

As long as it can hold out for a day we can reach a port town and have a shipwright repair it.

We have money, and money talks best.

We were going to stay over on the beach today, but Water Dragon-chan was all, "Hurry up! Come one!" put the boat on her back, and started swimming.

When I looked back, from the dark, bun-shaped island came the sounds of gigantic monsters walking around and the cries of mysterious birds.

Were they tired from the repairs? Ayl and Velsa covered themselves with furs and fell completely asleep.

I was a bit bitter that they weren't doing girl-talk with Water Dragon-chan.

“How long until we reach the town Red Dragon’s in?”

“Well, like, by morning, right?”

“You’re intending to swim it in one night? Won’t you tire yourself out?”

“Haa? I’m, like, a dragon, you know-! No way I’ll get tired, right!?”

“A, sorry... um, can I sleep?”

“No way-! Like, I was thinking, but it’s totally because Black Dragon-san rejected me that I, like, got freaked at love, so like...”

After that, Water Dragon-chan told me her history of love (all of them one-sided), but I was too sleepy so I don’t remember it.

“Hey, you listening?”

“Nope.”

“And so like... huh? Where was I?”

While I was swaying on Water Dragon-chan’s back, the night grew long.

Chapter 42

We arrived at this island before dawn, so it seems like it's a time where there's still no one up and about.

It seems that the port town this island has is called Caria

The lights in town were dark; only the building on the outskirts of town had lights in it.

The building faces the ocean, so we're landing in front of the building.

I can see the shadow of a person staggering on the far pier.

Drunk until he's dead drunk, I assume.

"I also feel like I'm drunk..."

I feel drunk entirely because of Water Dragon-chan's love talk; if I hear anymore pointless stories, I feel like I'm going to vomit.

I bet Water Dragon-chan hit me with her 600 years of delusions.

I wish she'd give me a break.

This and that are all Red Dragon's fault!

Because that guy handed me the dragon's magic stone!

I'm definitely giving him a piece of my mind!

When we landed, Ayl and Velsa also woke up, saying "A, we arrived?" and rubbing their eyes.

These guys, let's abandon them here.

They shoved me off on Water Dragon-chan all by myself!

Grudges from lack of sleep run deep.

“A, wait a sec.”

Saying that, Water Dragon-chan suddenly let off a light and transformed into a girl.

Butt naked.

The three of us were too surprised and froze when we saw Water Dragon-chan.

“A, let me borrow this.”

Water Dragon-chan grabbed the snow fox furs at my rear and wrapped it around her body.

Once again, I looked at the transformed Water Dragon-chan.

Long blue hair, and a good-looking face. Her limbs were long, like a model’s.

Eh? This... isn’t this a foul?

I feel like, if I mind it, I lose.

Let’s push aside the mood.

“A, alright! It’s that building, na!”(Naoki)

“Yeah!”

I ignore the “Guilty” I can hear from behind me and head towards the building with Water Dragon-chan.

The building is a brick-made, western building, so there’s a little path going from the gate to the door.

On both sides of the path is grass, and it seems like there’s nothing else planted.

There's also no sign board, and the name of the shop isn't written anywhere either.

There's only a lamp letting off pale light above the door.

I flare up my anger towards Red Dragon once again and opened the door.

"Welc... huh!?"

At the reception is something like a price list, with things like 1 time for 1 silver coin written there.

It's a totally conscientious store, isn't it?!

"There's supposed to be Red Dragon here as a customer!"

"Well, yeah. If you become a member of my family, fire and the like will be simple. Wahahaha." I can hear that voice and the laughing voices of girls from an inner room.

No doubt.

That voice is Red Dragon!

"Excuse me!"

"Wai...!!"

Without listening the gentleman trying to stop me, I trespassed into the room that had the shrill voices.

The ikemen with red hair, that seems to be the Red Dragon using humanization magic to take human form, is surrounded by beautiful girls not wearing much.

For some reason there's a blackboard on the wall. Red Dragon and company are sitting around a table on chairs.

I see. So it's this type of store! According to how it looks, it's THAT!

Dumbass! What a great store!

“O-! You, aren’t you the adventurer from the wyvern cave!?”

Red Dragon, surprised, said to me.

He’s saying it like he hasn’t done anything wrong.

“Y,you bastard! Red Dragon! Just what color is your blood-! I’m asking, you, what color is your blood-!!¹”

“C,calm down. What is the matter with you? Why are you angry? Say the reason, the reason.”

“Why didn’t you tell me about such a great store!? Why do you think I gave you the communication bag!?”

“Ah no, this store isn’t for humans...”

“What! Suddenly it’s discrimination!? You think humans don’t go to this kind of store!? I, I... *sob*, even though I’m over here getting turned on by the smell of the clothes taken off by a muscle-bound orc woman...”

“And just who is a muscle-bound orc?”

Ayl got me cleanly in the left cheek with a roundhouse kick.

I was blown away into the wall with the blackboard.

Cruel-! She has a warped face, and a warped feel to her, too.

“That’s not it.”

Velsa entered the room.

“Listen up, within this room is a far more important matter, and that’s, when a dragon uses humanization magic, how do their genitals change? Alright, that Red Dragon person, won’t you strip a bit and show me? Water Dragon-chan, you also come here...”

“ “That’s not it!” “

Ayl and Water Dragon-chan retorted here.

“Listen up, the most important matter within this room is who is the strongest! Now

then, let's get this started! A dragon vs human battle!!"

"That's not it!"

Water Dragon-chan retorted at Ayl.

"A, Big Sis Water Dragon, just what in the world is all of this!?"

"Why, with me as your girlfriend, are you going into this kind of store, that's what!"

"Haa-!? What do you mean by that?"

"I'm angry, that's what!"

Just when Water Dragon-chan released her magic to turn into a dragon, the gentleman at the reception desk entered the room.

"Wait right there-! It's prohibited to turn into a dragon within this room!"

So saying, the gentleman grabbed Water Dragon-chan's shoulder and sucked up her magic.

Water Dragon-chan's shoulders drooped; she had lost consciousness.

"Goodness, as always, she's a lady who jumps to conclusions."

The gentleman lifted Water Dragon-chan and went out of the room.

"Black Dragon-san! What is going on?"

Red Dragon asked the gentleman.

" " "Black Dragon!?" " "

I, Ayl, and Velsa all raised our voices in surprise together.

"Wait a moment. I'm going to put Water Dragon in the garden. It's troublesome if she returns to her original form within the building."

So saying, the man called Black Dragon carried off Water Dragon-chan.

"Red Dragon, just what is this shop?"

“This is Black Dragon-san’s cram school.”

At Red Dragon’s words, my eyes turned into dots and, tired and sleepy, I lost consciousness.

Chapter 43

“This is my private school. It teaches humanization magic to dragons chased out of their dens and those who wish to live normally as humans. Humans don’t come here, aslo.”

Black Dragon, a gentleman with slick-backed hair, gave us the explanation.

“For humans not to come here, what do you mean, even though the town’s so close?”

Black Dragon raised an eyebrow at Velsa’s question.”

“All of you, did you not look at this port town? Aa, it’s night so it’s dark, isn’t it. It would be good for you to take a look when it’s morning.”

I used the Search Skill to search out the port town.

It’s full of the red dots of monsters.

Then the drunk I saw earlier is...

“Is it zombies?”

“You saw it with Search Skill? That’s right. This town, Caria, is already dead.”

“How did it happen?”

“I’m not sure of the truth, but I believe my dragon master(shishou) became a dragon zombie in the heart of this island; done in by some hero from somewhere, I presume. Whether it was compassion or not, somehow or other, that hero didn’t deal the final blow. I presume that master gradually rotted and became a dragon zombie.”

“And then, the town was also infected?”

“Most likely.”

Black Dragon, tapping his head with his hand, looked down in vexation.

“Why a hero?”

Black Dragon narrowed his eyes at my question.

“You, where are you from?”

“The country of Alisfay, from Kubenia.”

“There are heroes in Alisfay as well, correct?”

At Black Dragon’s words, the three of us exchange glances; looks like no one knows about ‘heroes’.

“I worked in the Adventurers Guild, but I never heard of a hero appearing.”

Ayl said.

“I shut myself up in my house, researching.”

“I was also just doing exterminations, so I don’t really know, na.”

Velsa’s and mine are more like excuses.

“Then the Church is probably hiding it. Right now, there are heroes everywhere. The spirits giving blessing to whomever they want and make them heroes. And these girls are the result.”

Black Dragon pointed at the girls around Red Dragon.

“It’s because dragons are a wealth of experience points. The heroes aim for them right off the bat.”

The girls, with scales on the back of their necks, opened their mouths.

“I was living in the northern forest. I was targeted by the Ice Spirit’s hero who suddenly appeared, and had to run away.”

“While I was living in a grassland’s cave, the Wind Spirit’s hero appeared. I didn’t even do anything.”

“I was attacked by a hero in the mountains. I don’t know what spirit’s hero it was. Anyway, I was scared.”

“As for me, I was told, ‘Enough, go outside already,’ by a normal adventurer...”

Oi! The last guy there.

“Every one of them are dragons who fled their original homes.”

So Black Dragon gathered up all the fleeing dragons to teach them humanization magic.

Even with the course fee being 1 silver coin a time is to get them used to needing money when they go to live in a human town.

“So what’s up with Water Dragon-chan?”

“Aa, it’s a girl I assisted a long time ago. 500 years ago, after hearing a love story between a dragon and a knight, her one-sided feelings got too strong. I tried not to get involved with her as much as possible, but about a week ago, she came bringing this Red Dragon.” (Black)

“I met her at the ocean. I gave her wyverns and she said, ‘We’re lovers with this, ne’, and taught me humanization magic. But I couldn’t do the magic well, so she brought me to Black Dragon-san’s cram school.” (Red)

“And so, why is Water Dragon-chan mad?” (Naoki)

“Dunno. It’s a mystery.” (Red)

“It’s most likely because of these girls. Even though she’s the one who brought you, she’s probably displeased that you’re getting along with other dragons. Water Dragon’s jealousy is scary, after all.” (Black)

At Black Dragon’s words, I felt a shiver go up my spine.

“Ahem, ‘hem.”

Velsa coughed.

“You couldn’t have been bitten by a zombie?”

Black Dragon backed away from Velsa.

“No, we haven’t been bitten by zombies. It’s simply that this building is dusty. Do you not clean?” (Naoki)

The corner of the classroom has dust gathering in the corners, and the ceiling has

cobwebs stuck to it.

“Aa, I just used an abandoned building, after all. Specially cleaning it is...”

“Just saying, as a ‘normal adventurer’, I also do cleaning and pest exterminations as well, but should I clean?”

“I’d be grateful. Recently the condition of my throat has been poor, so this was why.”
(Black)

I used Cleanup on the room and got to cleaning.

Even though it was quite the large mansion, Cleanup made it to all the corners of the building.

There are masmascarl and small spiders, but I quickly exterminated them.

There were also zombie-fied creatures; when they came to live here they were already zombies, it seems.

“Actually, isn’t this kind of bad...”

When I reported the situation, all of the dragons’ faces stiffened.

Just why did they open a school in this sort of place?

“I left it along because I thought humans won’t approach us like this, but as I thought, it’s dangerous. Does pest extermination include monsters?”

“Should I give it a try?”

“Please.”

“But I think it would be faster if you dragons burnt it all to ashes with dragon breaths...”

The dragons shook their heads.

Black Dragon’s master, that is a superior dragon, had become a dragon zombie, so they’re being quite wary.

“The reward will be, will a Dragon Blessing work?”

“No, I don’t really want it.”

“N~ however, I don’t have gold coins. How about magic stones?”

It’s thanks to a magic stone that I got brought all the way here.

“I will have to refuse.”

“Then what would you like?”

“N~, let’s see. First a boat, and then a map?”

“Hou, a boat and a map? Understood, I have something in mind for the boat. Is it alright if it’s just what I know about for the map?”

“Ee, I will request them of you.”

When we left the building, night had completely given way to dawn.

In the garden, Water Dragon-chan is in dragon form, sleeping pleasantly.

“Now then, we were up all night, but shall we start exterminating zombies? Ayl and Velsa, help me out.”

“OK!”

“Got it.”

Chapter 44

I had Ayl pull over just one zombie. I had Velsa identify any specifics of the zombie.

It's a plan to find what kind of medicine is effective on the zombie after capturing it and then spraying that.

"O-i! I brought one-!"

Ayl's work is done surprisingly quickly.

She had pulled a single, one-eyed zombie with a beer bottle in its hand.

Is it weak to mornings, or is it just like that; I don't know which, but the zombie's proceeding speed is exceptionally slow.

"Un, that's a normal 'moving corpse' type zombie. Although there's no airborne infection, it's the type that turns you into a zombie when bitten, na. Recovery magic, recovery potions, holy water, any of those will work."

"For now let's capture it."

As I said that, I threw a torn fish net that I picked up from the beach at the zombie.

The zombie, tangled up in the net, crouched down at that spot and was captured.

To be safe, I took out the pump filled with recovery potion from the item bag and sprayed it, to test its effectiveness.

Emitting a white smoke, the zombie melted.

It's completely effective, but...

"N~ but you know, I'm worried about the amount of recovery potion if we use it on all of the zombies in town."

"We don't have any holy water?"

"None, naa. The we don't get involved with the church in the first place, naa."

"The church in this town might have some."

“Sure it might, but there’s a possibility that the holy water is contaminated.”

“Then what about salt?”

Purifying salt, you mean?

If it’s salt, we use it for cooking, so we have it, but...

“If it’s salt water, then we have a lot,”

I say, looking at the sea.

“Let’s try it.”

When we drew seawater and applied it to a zombie, it wasn’t to the degree of recovery potions, but I figured out it was more or less effective.

“If it’s like this, then we should just throw the zombies into the ocean.”

Ayl came up with a nice idea.

If they’re thrown into the ocean, they’ll die even if the effect is light.

“But, in this case, who do the experience points go to?”

“Dunno? Well, let’s just try it.”

“I want to try making an antidote for zombies. This kind of chance doesn’t come every day, and it will be useful if anyone gets bit. Naoki, lend me traps for catching masmascarl, and then recovery potions too.”

“Ok.”

I hand Velsa just the sticky traps that were in the item bag and about half the recovery potion.

Velsa placed the sticky traps in the surrounding bushes and on the road, then entered the building the dragons were in.

Right now, there’s nothing inside the building but the dragons.

Velsa also set traps around Water Dragon-chan.

“Now then, what should we do?”

Ayl asked while watching the zombies prowling around the port town.

“For now, maybe they’ll swarm if there’s fresh meat?”

Let’s try it.

Luckily I have a large amount of raw snow fox meat in the item bag, so we’ll use that.

After confirming that the zombies swarm towards raw meat, we set up a trap.

Borrowing a fishing line and fishhook from an abandoned boathouse, with the raw meat as bait, we fastened it to the pillars of the end of the pier.

I had it so that the zombies would fall into the ocean when they leapt towards the meat.

Like the bread in a bread-eating race, I attached a lot of raw meat.

I also used a broken down boat.

Putting raw meat into the boat, I fastened it to the pier with a rope and floated the boat on the sea.

I adjusted the rope so that the zombies who leapt towards the boat would fall into the ocean.

Dividing the work between two people, we sprinkled snow fox blood from the top of the hill within the port town towards the ocean.

From time to time we’d leave a piece of meat; zombies also get expectant, probably.

The last place for the scattered blood is the pier installed with traps.

Lured by the smell of blood, the slow-moving zombies came swarming.

The zombies’ movements are slow, so there’s pretty much no danger.

Interestingly, the zombified priest who came out from the side of the church, coming towards us, overturned the water jug at his feet and melted by himself.

Looks like the jug had holy water in it.

“That person is today’s most idiotic, na.”

“Un. After this is just watching the zombies jump into the ocean?”

“Let’s see. Then, I’m going to go sleep in the church, so Ayl, go help Velsa. If you have time, I’d like you to pick herbs used for recovery potions.”

“Got it. But man, like always, you’re not into defeating monsters, na.”

“It’s extermination, after all.”

Handing Ayl the item bag, I head to the church.

Taking some of the holy water-looking water within the church, I put it on the door.

After the zombie priest melted, I saw that there was no presence of monsters within the church with Search Skill, so I thought it would make a convenient sleeping area.

It’s the long awaited sleep.

Laying down on the bench, I quickly fell asleep.

“Mr. Komuro... Mr. Komuro...”¹

While sleeping, I felt like I heard a voice calling my surname, but there’s no one in this world who calls me by my surname, so I went back to sleep.

It was just past noon when I awoke.

I don’t have any bit wounds on my body.

When I checked the town with Search Skill, I understood that all the zombies were

gathering at the pier.

Leaving the church, while listening to the splashing sounds of the zombies falling into the sea, I headed back to Black Dragon's school.

'*Ya~~wn*, I'm sleepy.'

Yawning, I sleepily scratched my head.

"I'm hungry. I wonder what the dragons eat. Bugs? A, wyverns, huh?"

Muttering those kinds of things to myself, I went back down the port town's hill.

Chapter 45

When I returned to the building, the lawn in the garden was gouged out, and the top was bare.

The path around it also looked like a downpour had occurred.

“I’m glad I slept at the church.”

“Welcome back.”

Red Dragon, sweeping the path with a broom, called out.

“Looks like something major happened. Where’s Water Dragon-chan?”

“Right now, she’s with Black Dragon-san, getting your boat. She was harshly scolded by Black Dragon-san.”

“That so?”

“Fumu... well, there’s also an excuse for Water Dragon...”

Seems like, a long time ago, Black Dragon had run a brothel in a human town.

And Water Dragon-chan thought that a cram school was the same kind of institution.

Red Dragon had said he wanted to learn humanification magic, so she took him to learn under Black Dragon, and she misunderstood that he was going to be staying in a brothel-like institution.

As for Black Dragon, he had said that he thought she understood when he said a cram school.

“What’s with that?”

After that, I tried asking why Black Dragon was in a human town running a brothel.

“He wanted to find out more about humans’ desire for power. If he wanted to be well-known among humans, which would be faster, running a brothel or seriously

becoming a peerless holy man?”

I was told.

I remembered some people in my previous world’s Russia¹.

“O, you’re back?”

Carrying a basket, Ayl walked out from the side of the building together with the dragon girls.

Looks like they’ve been picking herbs in the forest.

“Thanks for that.”

“This enough?”

“Yah, it’s good.”

I said, looking at the basket full of herbs.

“Where’s Velsa?”

“Inside, dissecting zombie flesh in an experiment.”

Quite the mad scientist feel, na.

“I’m back.”

“O, slept well?”

Experimenting on the floor amongst the tainted meat and recovery potions, Velsa asked so when she saw me.

“Ya, I slept at the church.”

“It was too noisy here, after all.”

“How’s it going?”

“Un, in the end, a concentration of recovery potion is the most effective. Here.”

So say, Velsa soaked a piece of tainted meat in a bottle of green liquid.

With a sizzling sound, the tainted meat didn't melt.

"Can this be an antidote?"

"I tried it on a masmaskarl."

The masmaskarl within the cage-like thing looks energetic.

"If you take it ahead of time, you'll be fine even if you eat zombie meat. However, if the zombification has reached your brain..."

So saying, Velsa showed me a board with red liquid and brown fur stuck to it.

"It's unable to be cured, na. If you get bit in the neck, it immediately spreads to your brain, so it's better to be careful."

"So I should use a scarf."

"How are the zombies in town?"

Using the Search Skill to check the progress, I checked out the town.

"They're pretty much all sunk into the sea."

The zombies have been exterminated, but the original zombie dragon is still around.

Growl

My stomach sounded.

"Let's have a BBQ outside."

"Un."

We roasted a whole snow fox on the lawn in the garden.

We stuck a skewer from head to rear and rotated the skewer over the fire to roast it.

It's the so-called, "It's done deliciously!" style.

Next to it, Red Dragon and the dragon girls are gnawing on a raw white bear.

They're saying,

"What is this! It's delicious!"

and the like.

Around when the meat looked to be grilled well, you could see Water Dragon-chan heading this way with a sailboat when you looked towards the ocean.

Water Dragon-chan was pulling the sailboat, and Black Dragon was standing on top of the sailboat.

No nono, a sailboat?

The sailboat's sail was torn and the hull was so worn out that it looked like it could sink at any moment.

This is, it's basically a ghost ship.

To the degree that it wouldn't be weird if there were ghost-type monsters on it.

"I'm back-!"

Water Dragon-chan, who had gotten onto the shore, is excitable as always.

"Hey! Properly apologize." (Black Dragon)

"I've caused you trouble, so I'm very sorry!" (Water Dragon)

At Black Dragon's words, the humanified Water Dragon-chan, with an unbelievably low voice and unthinkably stern expression, knelt and prostrated^(dogeza).

Behind her, with his arms crossed and slick-backed hair, is Black Dragon.

"A, it's fine, it's fine. Aside from that, the boat, is that the one?" (Naoki)

"It's one that had run aground the rocky place opposite us. I thought you could use it after fixing it up." (Black Dragon)

"There aren't any monsters on it, right?" (Naoki)

"Aa, no problem there. They've already been defeated." (Black Dragon)

So there really were-?

“If it’s to the nearest human-inhabited port town, Water Dragon will escort you.”
(Black Dragon)

“Is that so?” (Naoki)

“I’ll be with ya~” (Water Dragon)

Water Dragon-chan said frivolously.

“Hey!” (Black Dragon)

“I will gladly be in your care!” (Water Dragon)

Water Dragon-chan’s face is scary.

“My apologies. Right now, I’m in the middle of practicing my serious face. Could you not look at me with wide eyes?” (Water Dragon)

“H,haa... anyway, you guys want to eat?” (Naoki)

“I’ll have to trouble you.” (Black Dragon)

“Seriously, my apologies, I think!” (Water Dragon)

I take out white bear meat from the item back and hand it to Black Dragon and Water Dragon-chan.

“N~ this is quite delectable.” (Black Dragon)

“N~ I have this face, but I think this might be delicious. Why!? Unbelievable!” (Water Dragon)

Black Dragon and Water Dragon-chan, who was screwing around, each gave their impressions, and then Black Dragon iron-clawed Water Dragon-chan’s face.

“I was being serious though~~!” (Water Dragon)

“And so, the extermination in the town is done, but the origin hasn’t been suppressed.”

After the meal, Black Dragon and I discuss the situation hereon out while drinking tea.

“Certainly, if it’s left like this, we might eventually become zombies... as I thought.”

“Yeah, I was thinking of going to defeat Black Dragon-san’s teacher.”

Black Dragon drank a mouthful of tea and let out a large sigh.

“Umu. Originally it should have been my duty, but the moment I saw my master, I fled.”

“What kind of dragon is your master?”

“A stunning white dragon. Gentle, as well as strict. And also frightfully strong.”

Black Dragon’s face stiffened for an instant.

“Even now, I can’t understand how master lost to a hero.”

“Just in case, to confirm the situation, is your master’s head also zombified?”

“Yes, half the head is festering.”

It seems there’s no chance of saving Black Dragon’s master.

“According to our monster scholar, it seems that the dragon zombie has a grudge, or otherwise some other kind of intent. It’s like that your master might have a last will to say. Would you like to come with us to see?”

“...umu, I’ll go.”

“Then, we’ll head off tomorrow morning.”

The sun is already sinking in the western sky.

After that, I met up with Velsa and Ayl and made preventative hoods and masks.

The dragon girls seemed very interested as they watched us.

Velsa won’t be going before the dragon zombie; she’s making recovery dumplings to use on the zombified masmaskarl and poison spiders.

Watching Ayl wave her sword, Red Dragon bestowed the sword with a fire attribute.

“It will cut well this way, right?”

“You can do something like that!? That’s unexpectedly useful.”

To my surprised exclamation,

“It’s the blessing of a fire dragon. It’s different from your magic circles. I also want to help out, even if it’s just a little bit,”

the fire dragon said solemnly.

“Your serious face is pretty good. How about teaching Water Dragon-chan how to do it?”

“Get out of here!”

When the situation settled, the dragon girls also helped out, making recovery potions.

Even Water Dragon-chan, watching from a distance, was drawn in to smash and grind the herbs.

As expected of the physical strength that only dragons have; it was quickly finished.

The dragon girls and Water Dragon-chan, and come to think of it, Ayl too;

“Won’t you girls wear normal clothes?”

was the question I asked.

“ “ “N?” “ “

“No well, the exposure amount is vicious, so my eyes just go there.”

Even while I’m saying such things, my hands don’t stop making recovery potions.

“I’d heard that humans like clothes with high exposure rates, though?”

That’s, it’s definitely Black Dragon’s tastes...

When I stared at Black Dragon he said, “Come to think of it, there are women’s clothes in the dresser in this mansion,” and guided the dragon girls into an interior room.

“Ayl should also take the chance to go along. Because you can’t come in bikini armor tomorrow.”

“That so?”

“You’ll get poisoned if the zombie dragon just touches you, and it also sprays a poison mist,”

Velsa explained.

“Got it.”

“We might also need a resistance charm.”

“Un”

While we were discussing such things, we made high-purity recovery potions.

“Amazing skills.”

Since I have Pharmacy and Compounding Skills at max level, ne.

“Oh, that’s right. I was just thinking about zombification antidotes last minute, but would an ointment work?”

“N? Aa, come to think of it. That way would be more convenient to carry, huh? It’s better if it’s a liquid for drinking and applying it to the effected part, but for an adventurer it might be more economical when applying it to infected, small wounds.”

I can smell money in it.

“After we clean the current matter up, let’s give it a try.”

“Aa.”

I can hear high-pitched voices from the inner room.

When I look out the window, the waves are swaying under the moonlight.

Night continued onward on the island.

Chapter 46

Early in the morning, we headed towards the center of the island.

The members of our party are Ayl, Black Dragon, and me.

All of us are wearing resistance badges I made on the chest, back, etc of our clothes.

All the way until we arrived at the cave the dragon zombie was at, there weren't any monsters who attacked us.

I can hear the voice of frog monsters from a swamp nearby.

After that, I went around the swamp and exterminated as many zombified monsters as I could.

Using Search Skill, I confirmed the location of the dragon zombie.

The further you go into the cave the deeper it gets, but it's not divided into levels.

There aren't any monsters in the cave other than the dragon zombie; even if there were, they were only small monsters like masmascarl and poison spiders.

If it's like this, then Plan A will be fine.

"If you had anything to ask your master, it's now or never, so go ahead."

"M,me, by myself?"

Black Dragon asked me.

"I think that way is better, but... I have preparations to make, and I don't think it will end up in the situation where your master will convey his(her) will at the moment of defeat, so..."

Ayl as well, with not wanting to see Black Dragon's master as anything but the target for subjugation as her reason, said "I won't go with."

"I'm watching with the Search Skill, so if anything happens I'll coming running."

After I said this much, Black Dragon agreed with,

“I understand,”

and headed into the cave by himself.

While watching the situation between Black Dragon and the dragon zombie with Search Skill, I went to the ground above the cave.

Reaching the spot I had decided on, I leveled the ground.

Looks like Black Dragon and the dragon zombie have met up.

Before Black Dragon starts coming back this way, I drew a magic circle on the leveled ground.

After drawing it, I took out the pump with recovery potion in it and equipped it.

While waiting for Black Dragon to come back, I made the last checks with Ayl.

Ayl’s sword had been endowed with Red Dragon’s blessing, so it was glistening red.

I began to knead magic power through my body.

Ze-

With a slow gait, Black Dragon came before us.

Black Dragon opened his mouth reluctantly with a solemn expression.

“Kill me, was what it was.”

“Understood.”

I bowed deeply, remembering Black Dragon's words from last night.

"A stunning white dragon. Gentle, as well as strict. And also frightfully strong."

"Even now, I can't understand how (s)he lost to a hero."

Ayl and I covered our heads with the hoods and equipped the masks.

Black Dragon left the magic circle that was drawn at our feet.

I loaded the magic circle with the magic power I had been kneading.

Zu-n-

With that noise, the ground began to slowly descend.

What I had drown was a gravitational magic magic circle.

Directly below us was Black Dragon's zombified master, Light Dragon.

Black Dragon fervently watched the fate of the hole opening up in the ground.

As for me, I took Black Dragon's stare straight on, loading the magic circle with magic power.

From the hole, with the exact roundness of the magic circle, I can see the morning's blue sky.

As the hole gets smaller, below us we can hear the cry of a dragon.

At once, the dirt and rocks under our feet plummeted, and Ayl and I were free-falling through the air.

As I look below, the room is being filled with poisonous purple fog, and I can see two dark shadows writhing within.

By the time I realized that the black shadows were the dragon zombie's neck and tail,

Ayl plunged towards the neck.

The dragon zombie, whose body was buried in rocks and dirt, somehow got free and sprayed poisonous fog, raising a battle cry.

“GYAAAAAAAAA-!!”

With a death scream the bisected neck and head fell to the ground, writhing even now.

I, who landed on the ground, sprayed recovery potion on the writhing neck and head, and it melted.

After that, it was just Ayl digging out and dismantling the buried body, and me melting them.

The poisonous fog was ventilated out through the hole in the roof.

I also gave Black Dragon a mask, so it's probably okay.

When the entire body of the dragon zombie was melted, I went outside while spraying recovery potion on the small monsters within the cave.

Black Dragon was waiting outside the cave.

I handed the large magic stone that was within the dragon zombie's chest to Black Dragon.

When Black Dragon took the magic stone, he faced the sky while trembling and gave a cry, turning into the form of a giant black dragon.

Clutching the magic stone preciously to his chest, he flapped his splendidly large wings and soared into the sky.

As for us, we don't know what the relation between Black Dragon and the light dragon who became the dragon zombie was.

However, we can tell that(s)he was a precious friend to Black Dragon.

Ayl and I will never forget the tears that welled up in Black Dragon's eyes.

Ayl and I went around the swamp, steadily searching out as many zombified monsters as we could.

If the two of us headed back, we'd definitely be asked about what happened to Black Dragon.

While we were harvesting instant-death poison from the aero frogs in the swamp, the humanified Black Dragon returned.

His eyes were red and his clothes were ragged.

"My apologies. I've forced an unpleasant role onto you."

"No, it was my job."

"...Thank you."

Just now, the blue skies have been covered with clouds.

Underneath the cloudy skies, the 3 of us returned to 'Black Dragon's Cram School,' where everyone was waiting.

Chapter 47

“This is the map of what I know.”

Black Dragon handed a map over.

We’re aboard the beat up sailing ship.

I accepted Black Dragon’s reward for exterminating zombies.

On the map there were two continents and a number of islands in between them drawn carefully.

And, going in a line straight south, there’s an indistinct shadow of an island drawn.

“This is?”

When I asked Black Dragon,

“I was born in the southern hemisphere. However I was very young, so I don’t remember it well, sorry.”

“Southern hemisphere? So it exists?”

“Of course it does. Whether it was annihilated in a battle between the gods or the mischief of spirits, it became impossible to go there roughly one thousand years ago.”

I had called them sun and moon at my convenience, but there are stars and satellites, so this is obviously a planet.

Rather, what’s more serious is why you’re unable to go there.

“What happens if you try to go to the southern hemisphere?”

“It’s like you’re pushed... you can’t proceed. No, well, I had also tried to go, but before I knew it I would be returning towards the northern hemisphere. It’s that kind of feeling.”

“U-n...”

So there’s that kind of fantastic phenomenon, huh?

It’s kind of similar to the monster from my previous world called the ‘nurikabe’, but

for the entire equator to be a nurikabe?

It's like there's some wide-scaled magic at work.

Can you do it with space magic? To the entire equator?

"What kind of god is it?"

"It's obviously the work of gods, na. Well, the ones who went to fight that god disappeared afterwards, it seems. This boat was the same."

There are countless scars on the ship from a fight.

When I entered the cabin, there was a piece of parchment with "Adventurers will adventure" written on it stuck on the wall.

There are pots and tableware scattered on the floor and tables of the cabin.

When I peeked into the other rooms, there was a room with torn hammocks strung in it and a room with wine casks packed in it, but there were no human bones.

Black Dragon was definitely conscientious and cleaned it up.

If I replace the sail and fix the broken spots, it looks like we can use it.

"Un, it's a good ship, ne."

"Then I'm relieved."

"It's just, we can't man this huge sailing ship with just the three of us, and there aren't any sailors..."

"That is the case. Water Dragon will escort you to the nearest port town, so can't you find sailors there?"

"Aa, that's true. I'll do that."

"Are you departing immediately? If there's anything you need, whether from the mansion or the town, I won't mind so you can take it with you."

"Ee. Thank you very much."

When we returned to the mansion, Ayl was making a fuss.

“What’s up?”

“Look! The title on my Adventurer’s Card!”

Ayl showed me her Adventurer’s Card.

[Protector of Dragons] and [Sword King] were recorded on the card.

The level was also like 58.

She’s surpassed the previous hero, hasn’t she?

“A, me too.”

Velsa looked at her own card.

“Velsa also has an Adventurer’s card?”

“Aa, just in case; I thought I might travel by boat, so I got it at Marina Port.”

Velsa’s card also has [Protector of Dragons] recorded.

Her level is also 25, not too bad.

“My level also went up. I killed too many masmaskarl.”

Velsa was experimenting by dissecting masmaskarls and set out recovery dumplings, so she probably defeated zombified monsters.

“A, I don’t have it.”

There wasn’t an special title on my Adventurer’s Card.

For the level to be 95, this is kind of really bad. I can’t show this guy to anyone.

“You probably earned the title because we are grateful to you. I don’t know the reason why Naoki didn’t get the title.”

“Is there any sort of profit or anything to a title?”

“Isn’t it that status growth speed will go up? It’s been a long while since my level’s risen, so I don’t really know, though.”

Black Dragon responded.

“A special correction to the numbers has been made. Muu... I want the Appraisal Skill!”

Ayl is delighted.

“I wonder why it didn’t get added to Naoki?”

To Velsa’s question, I think it’s because I’m an ‘otherworlder’.

“Well, it’s not like I particularly need it. Aside from that, prepare for sailing! Gather the things you need, and let’s set off!”

“Got it!”

“OK!”

Packing our things, we boarded the ship.

Although I said packing, it was just putting things in the item bag so it wasn’t a big deal.

Everything we thought we might need just went in.

Then I carried the bottle with the ticks and brought it onto the ship.

Those two are staring at me like, ‘he’s doing it again’, but good grief, these two don’t understand the importance of these ticks.

I had asked the dragon girls whether there’s a chrysanthemum-like flower, but it turns out they don’t know of any other flowers other than the white flowers we used while making the sleeping medicine.

I didn’t diligently search the island, but it seems like there aren’t any, so I gave up on this island.

When it came time to depart, the dragons saw us off.

“Hurry and get on, ya? I’m, like, gonna escort you.”

and Black Dragon rebuked Water Dragon for speaking that way.

“Then, let’s meet again some day! We intend to stay here for some time longer. If there’s some stray dragon, it would be helpful if you brought him here!”

“Aa, of course! Because I’m a [Protector of Dragons]!”

Ayl thoughtlessly made the promise. Not my problem.

Water Dragon is in the shape of a dragon, pulling a rope attached to the prow of the ship, and we slowly set off.

The dragon girls and we three waved our hands until we couldn’t see each other.

As the island became smaller, I completely ignored Water Dragon-chan and headed to the cabin.

While preparing my bed in the cabin, I announced a matter I had been persisting in.

“Sorry, but can I say something? Haven’t you noticed me being a little strange recently?”

“Nope, since Naoki’s been strange since I’ve met you.”

So Ayl said, and Velsa consented like she was the same.

“That so. Well, see. Recently, all sorts of things have been making me turned on; I can’t help it. Like, Ayl’s scent turning me on, and the dragon girls’ get ups entering my sight.”

“What, so it’s that. So hopeless. Guys, I mean. Good grief.”

“He’s a male creature, so it’s inevitable. If it’s Naoki, it’s not like we don’t get along, and I’m not against it.”

Ayl and Velsa said so, and made to take off their clothes.

“Wait wait! I’m against it. I’m not going to go steady with you guys after this, so I don’t want to. No, well, what I wanted to say is that once we reach the next port town, let’s

move separately. Because I'm going to drop by the brothel."

"Say that first. Good grief."

"What, so it's like that. Got it."

Outside the window, Water Dragon-chan's eye appeared.

"Like, did you guys, like, hear me?"

""""Wasn't listening.""""



PDF by: traitorAIZEN